

# phoenix

CIVIL WAR

OSAMU TEZUKA

# phoenix

**CIVIL WAR**  
**PART ONE**



**BY OSAMU TEZUKA**

Phoenix: Civil War: Part 1  
Vol. 7  
VIZ Signature Edition

STORY AND ART BY  
OSAMU TEZUKA

English Translation by Jared Cook and Frederik L. Schodt  
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Primary Graphix  
Design/Izumi Evers  
Editor/Ian Robertson

PHOENIX by Osamu Tezuka  
Copyright © 2003 by Tezuka Productions  
Translation Copyright © 2003 by VIZ Media, LLC  
All rights reserved.  
First published in Japan in 1954.  
English translation rights arranged by Tezuka Productions

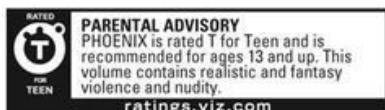
A message to our readership:

Some of the phrasing and expressions in the work you are about to read reflect the time and context in which it was originally created and thus might not be in accordance with present standards. The author had an unflinching dedication to conveying several themes through the art of manga, such as the importance of nature, love and peace; a warning against the idolization of science, and the preciousness of life. It is clear that at the root of his work there is a strong belief in the power of human love overall.

We believe that publishing a faithful translation is essential to accurately conveying the message within the work itself as intended by the author, as well as protecting its integrity as a part of Japan's cultural heritage and preserving it for future generations. We therefore appreciate your understanding as you enjoy this work of art.

VIZ Media, LLC · Tezuka Productions, Co. Ltd.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC  
P.O. Box 77010  
San Francisco, CA 94107





IN A  
DISTANT  
CORNER  
OF THE  
UNIVERSE,  
ON A TINY  
CLUMP OF  
STARDUST

...

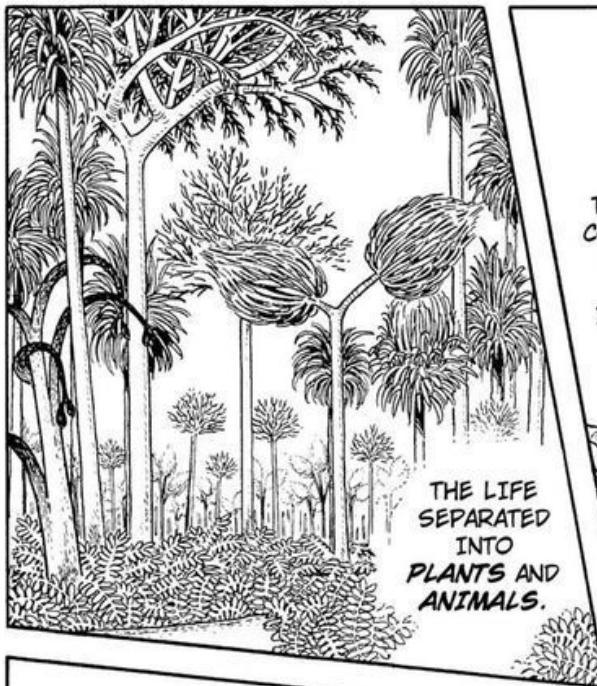
...THERE  
WAS LIFE,  
AND IT  
CLUNG TO  
EXISTENCE  
LIKE MOSS  
ON A  
ROCK...



IN THE SHORT SPAN  
OF THE LITTLE PLANET'S  
EXISTENCE, THIS LIFE HAD  
ALREADY CHANGED FORM  
DRAMATICALLY, AND BECOME  
INCREASINGLY COMPLEX.



IT WAS ALL  
PART OF A  
BIOLOGICAL  
PROCESS THAT  
HUMANS CALL  
"EVOLUTION".

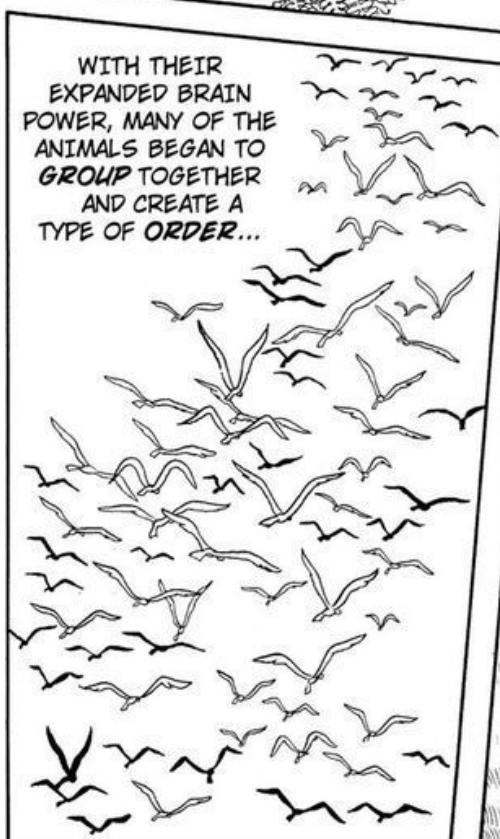


THE LIFE  
SEPARATED  
INTO  
PLANTS AND  
ANIMALS.



THE ANIMALS  
CONTINUED TO  
EVOLVE AT  
AN EVER  
INCREASING  
PACE...

INVADER GAME



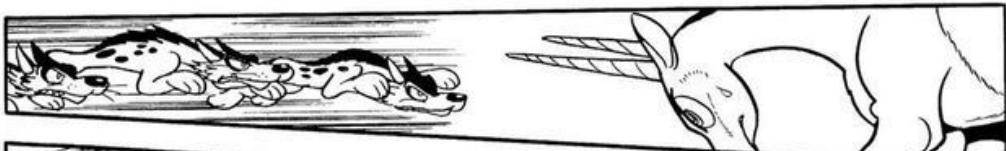
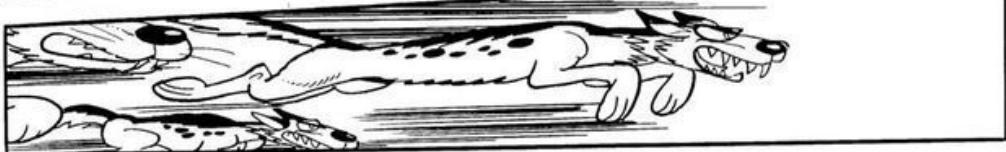
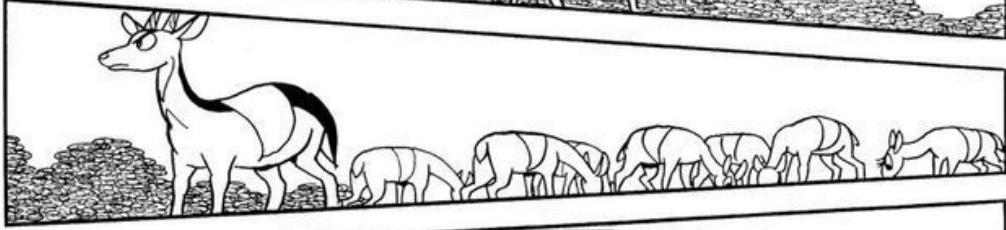
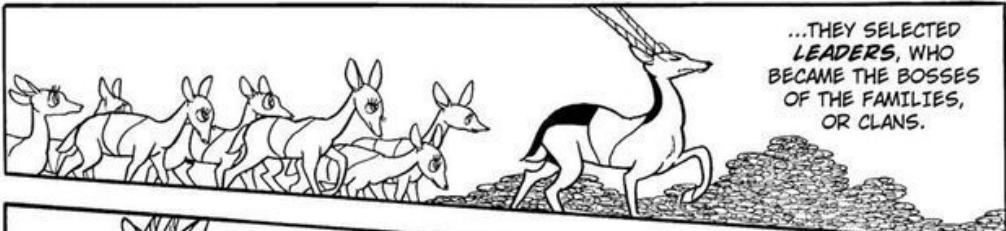
WITH THEIR  
EXPANDED BRAIN  
POWER, MANY OF THE  
ANIMALS BEGAN TO  
GROUP TOGETHER  
AND CREATE A  
TYPE OF ORDER...

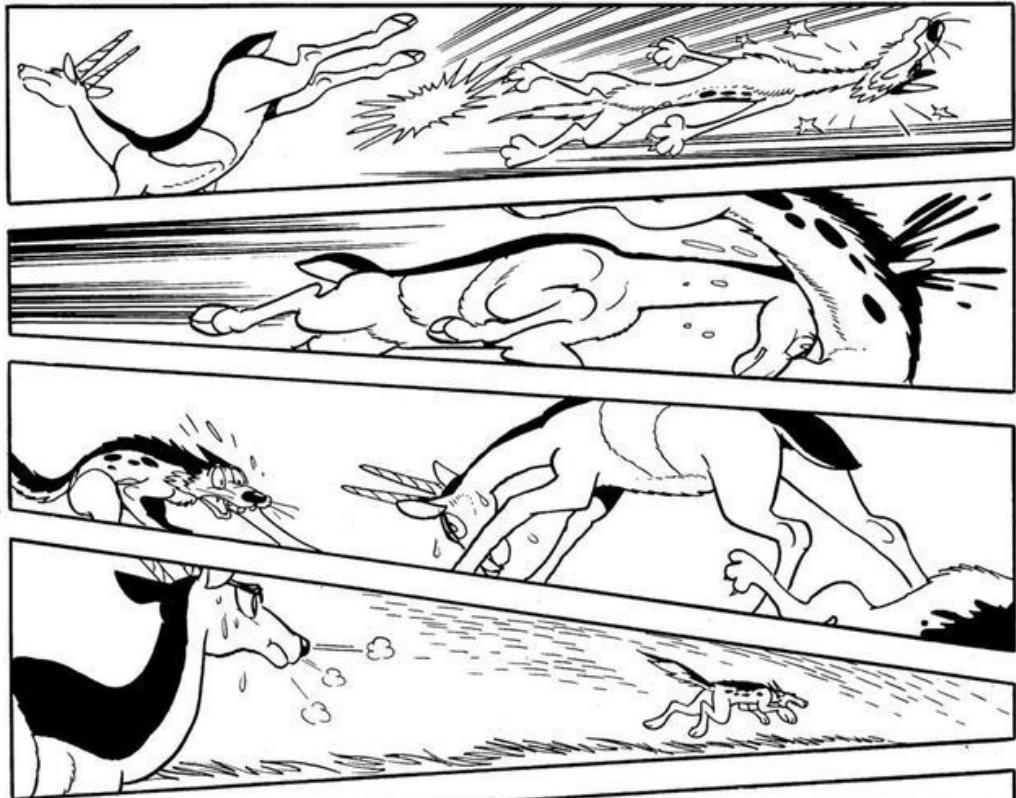


AT FIRST  
THESE "GROUPS"  
WERE MERELY  
FAMILIES, LINKED  
BY A SHARED  
BLOODLINE...

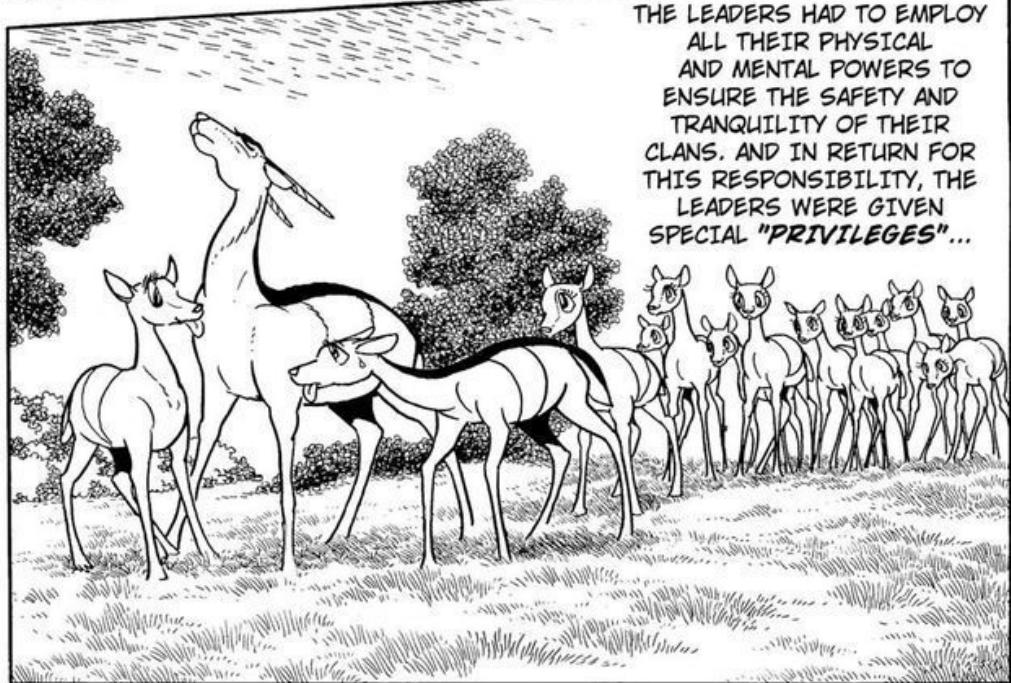
...BUT IN  
ORDER TO  
ENSURE  
THE SAFETY  
OF THEIR  
OFFSPRING

...THEY SELECTED LEADERS, WHO BECAME THE BOSSES OF THE FAMILIES, OR CLANS.





THE LEADERS HAD TO EMPLOY ALL THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL POWERS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND TRANQUILITY OF THEIR CLANS. AND IN RETURN FOR THIS RESPONSIBILITY, THE LEADERS WERE GIVEN SPECIAL "PRIVILEGES"...





IT WAS THE  
SAME, TOO, FOR  
THE CREATURES  
CALLED  
HUMAN  
BEINGS.

# phoenix

TM



**B  
O  
O  
M**

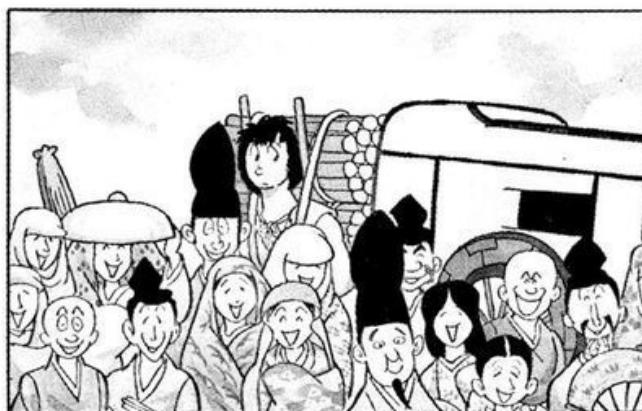
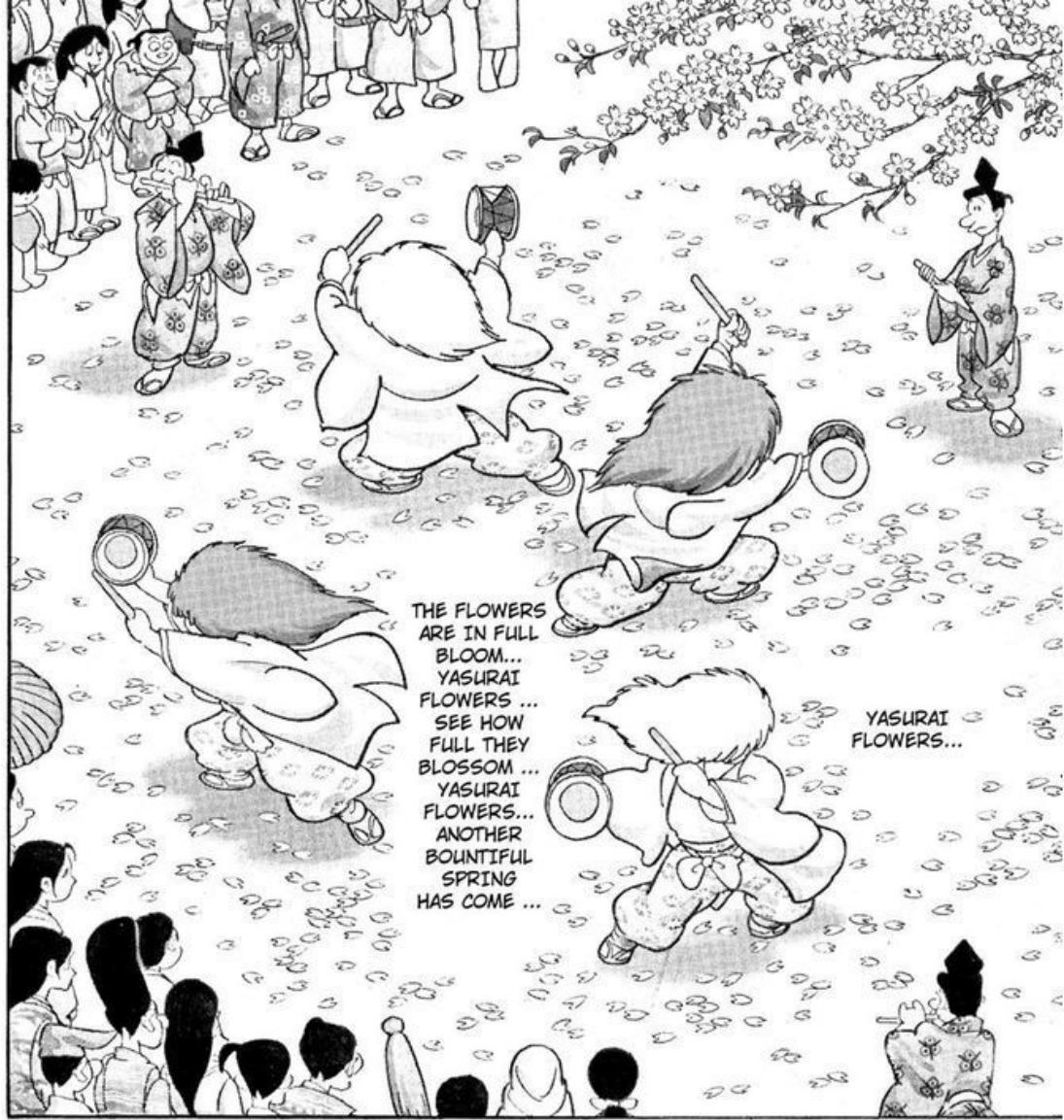
**RAT  
TA  
TAT**

**B  
O  
O  
M**

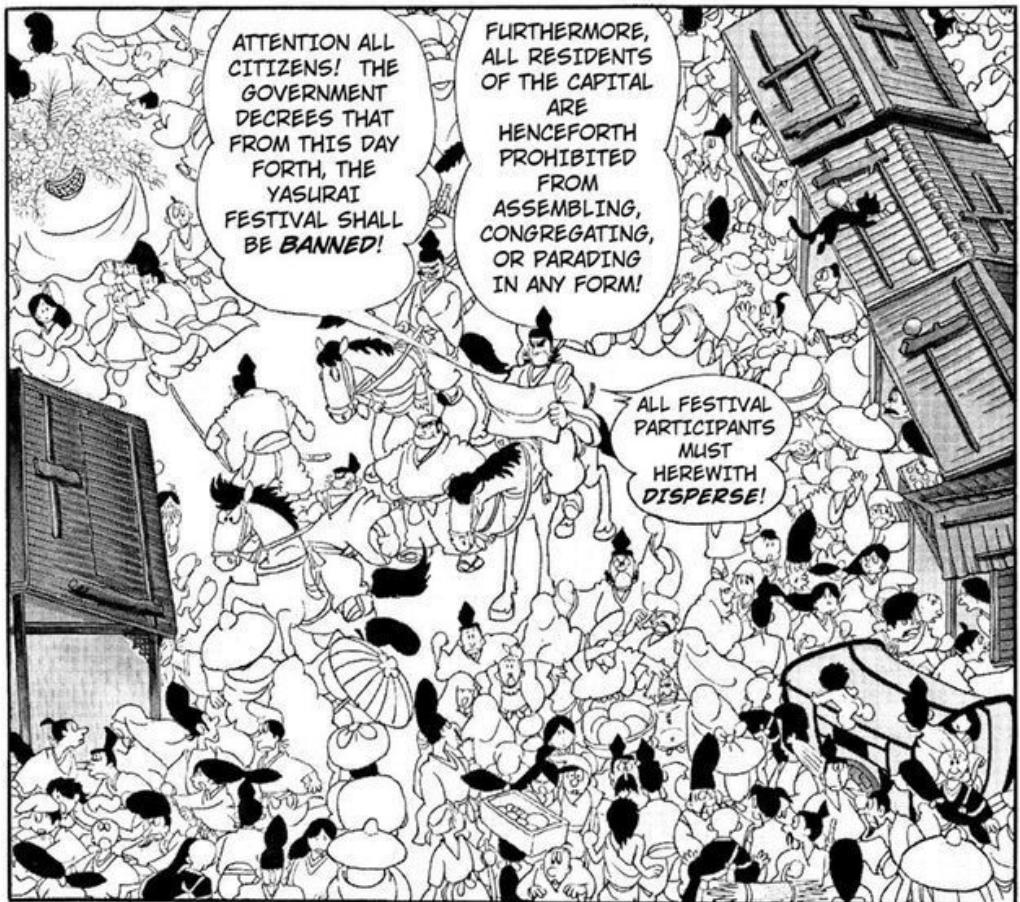


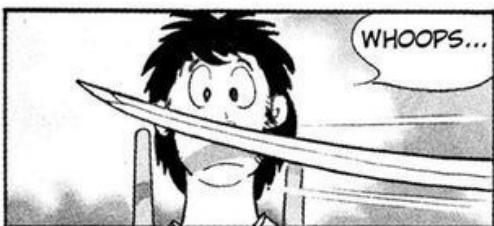
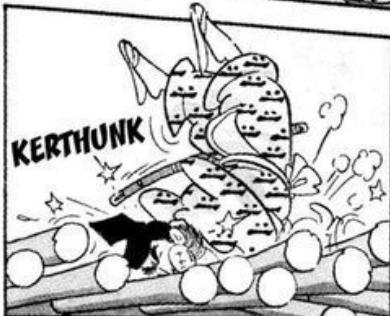
**B  
O  
O  
M**

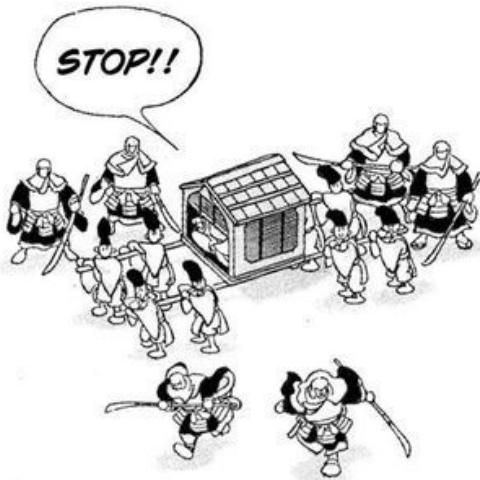
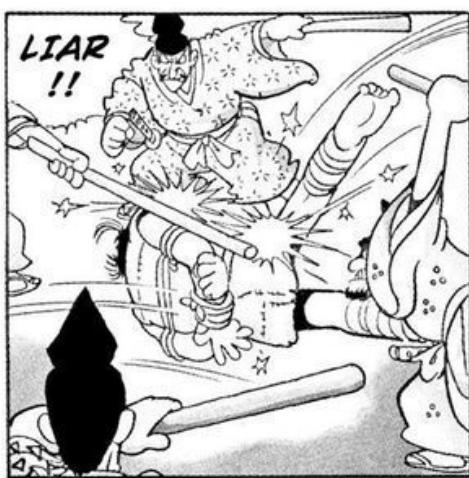
**B  
O  
O  
M  
B  
O  
O  
M**

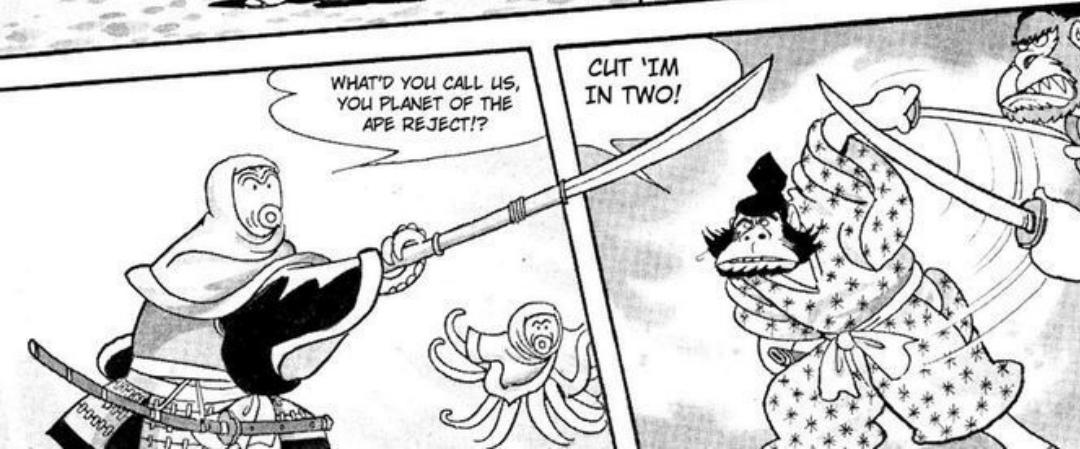
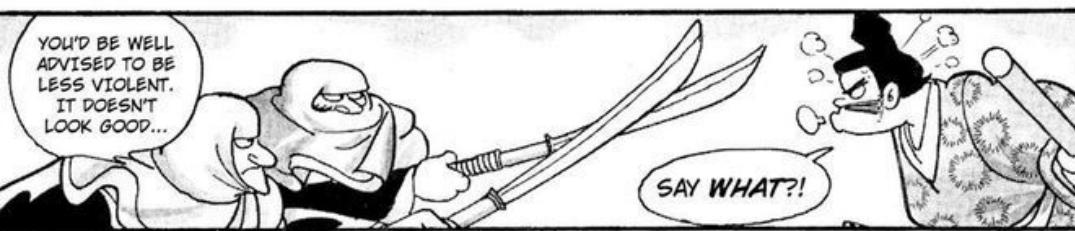


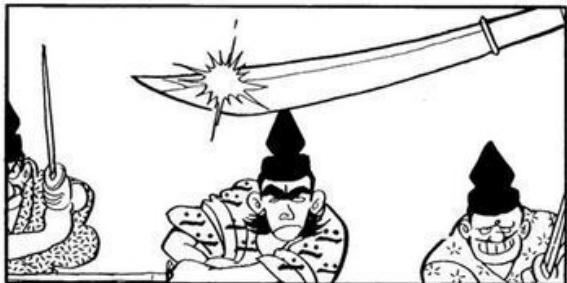


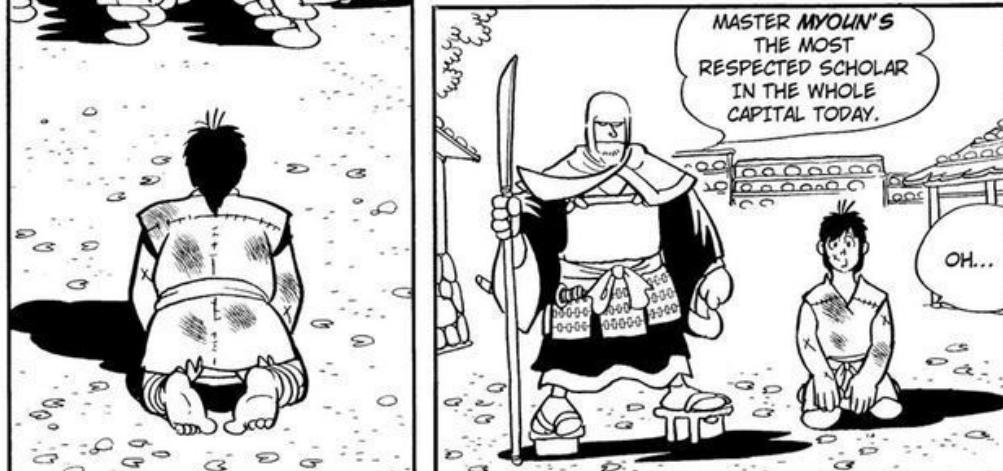
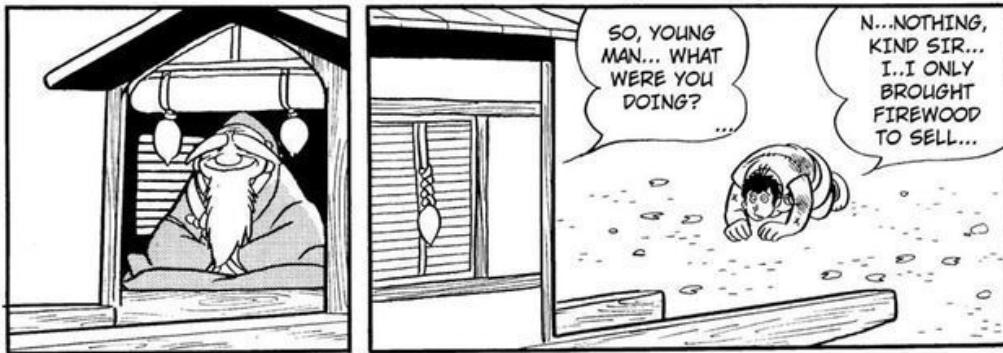






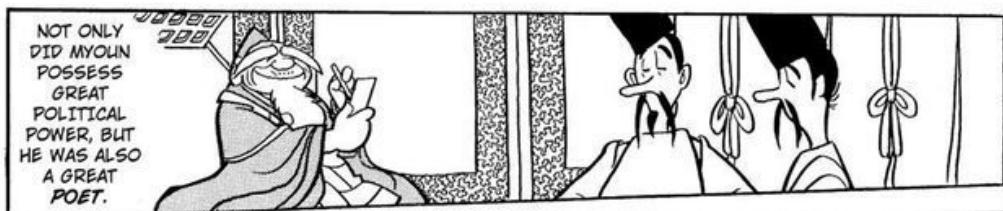
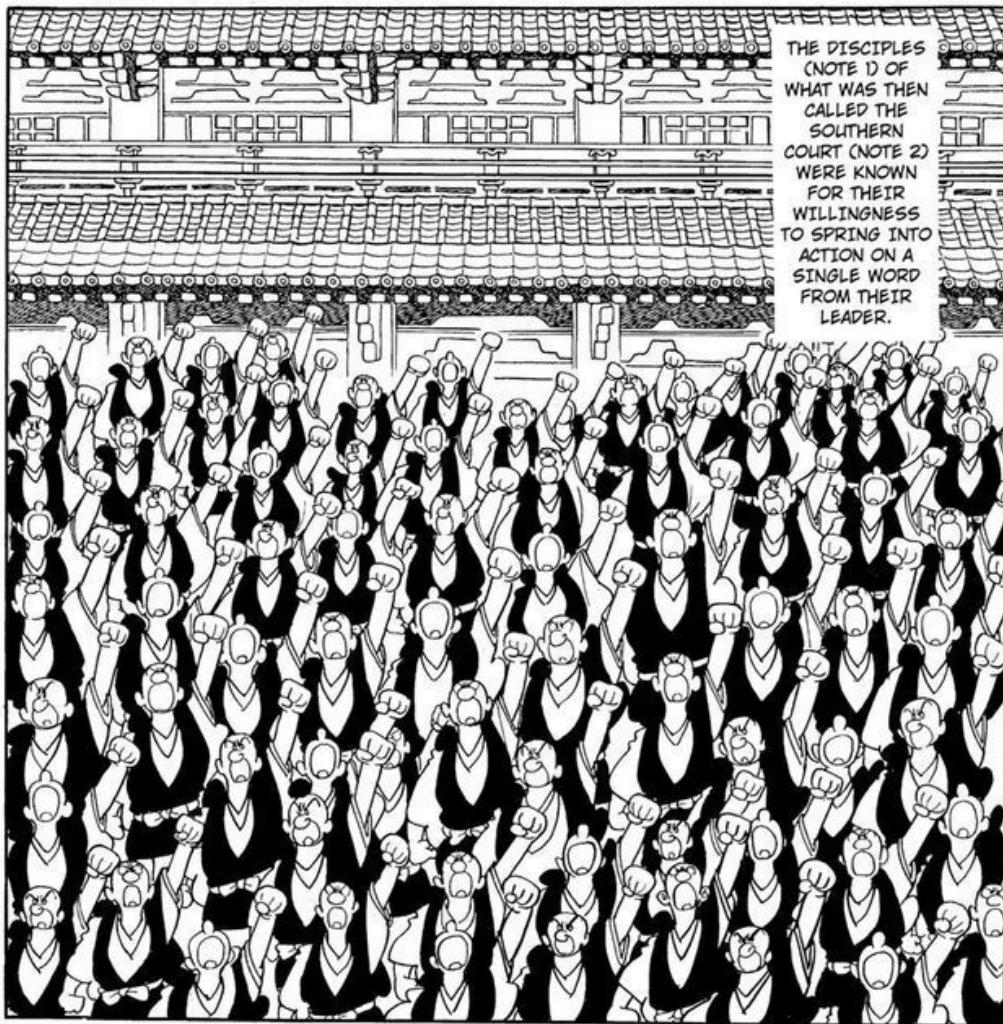






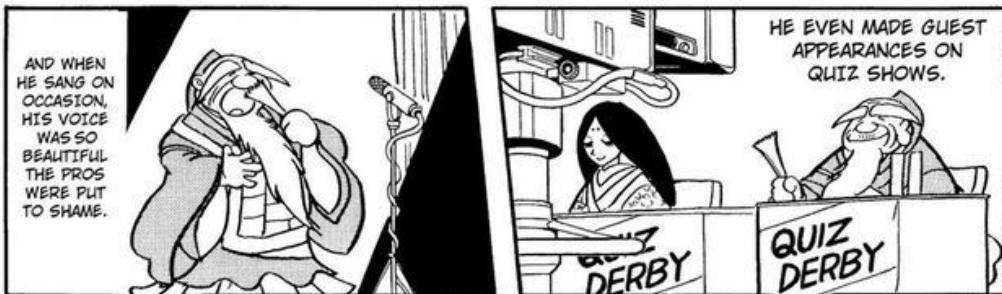


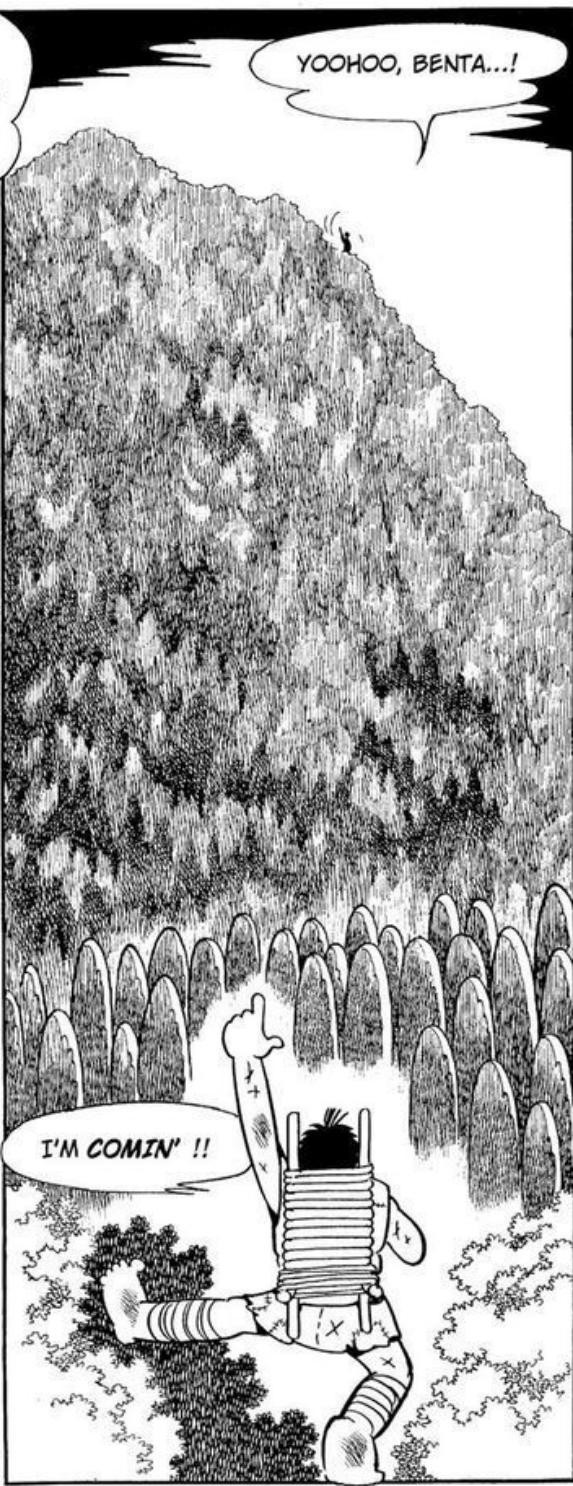
\* NOTE: HOKUREI IS ANOTHER NAME FOR ENRYAKU-JI TEMPLE, LOCATED ON MT. HIEI-ZAN IN KYOTO.



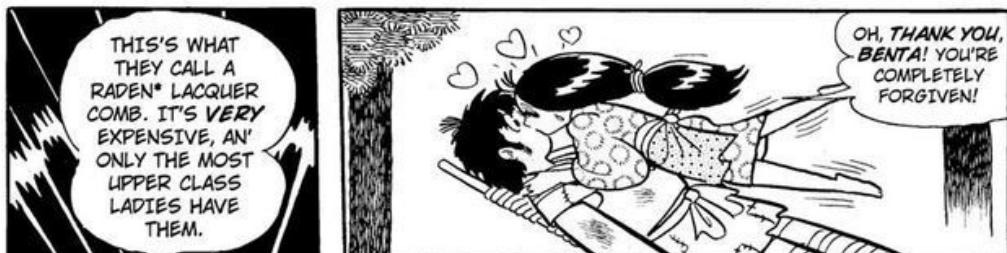
NOTE #1: IN ANCIENT TIMES, TRAINING TO BE A BUDDHIST MONK WAS THE QUICKEST WAY TO BECOME EDUCATED, AND TEMPLES WERE THE EQUIVALENT OF TODAY'S UNIVERSITIES.

NOTE #2: REFERS TO THE GREAT TEMPLE IN NARA CALLED KOFUKUJI, ALSO KNOWN AS TODAIJI, ONE OF THE LARGEST WOODEN STRUCTURES IN THE WORLD.







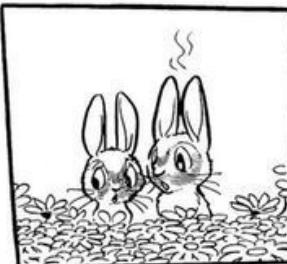






WAIT, BENTA...  
SOMETHING'S  
WATCHING US...

JUST  
IGNORE  
'EM, OBU...

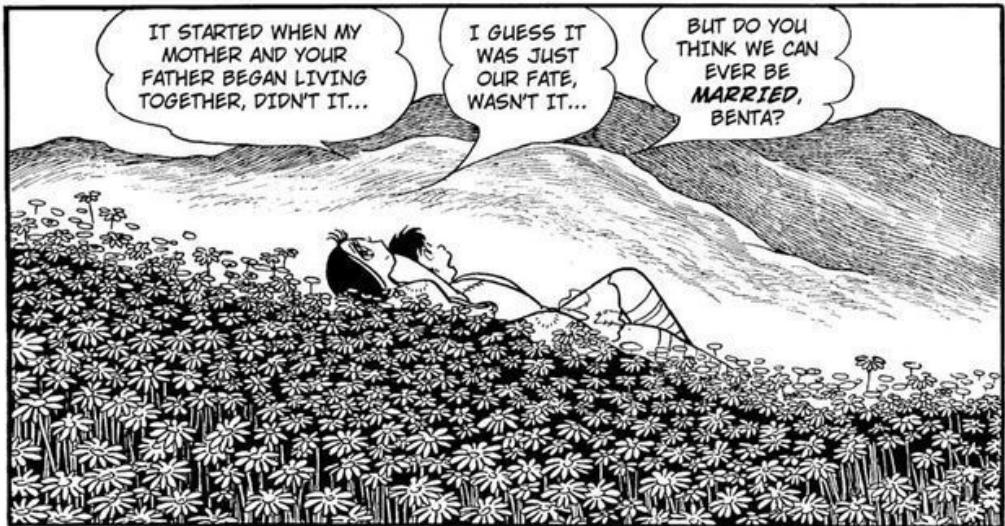


GOSH, YOU  
SURE ARE  
PRETTY,  
OBU...



I DON'T  
KNOW WHY  
I'VE ALWAYS  
LIKED  
SOMEBODY  
AS ROUGH  
AS YOU,  
BENTA...

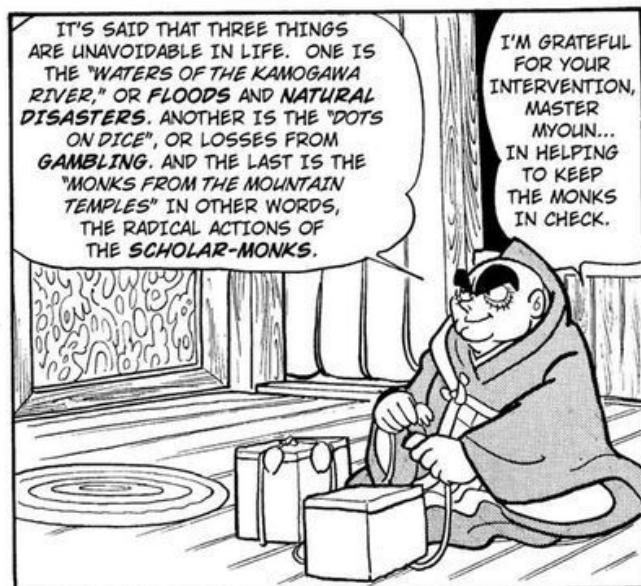
...WELL,  
WE'VE  
ALWAYS  
BEEN  
SWEET-  
HEARTS...  
SINCE  
CHILD-  
HOOD.





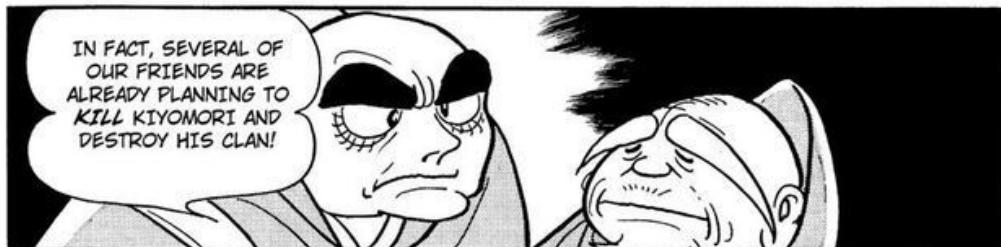




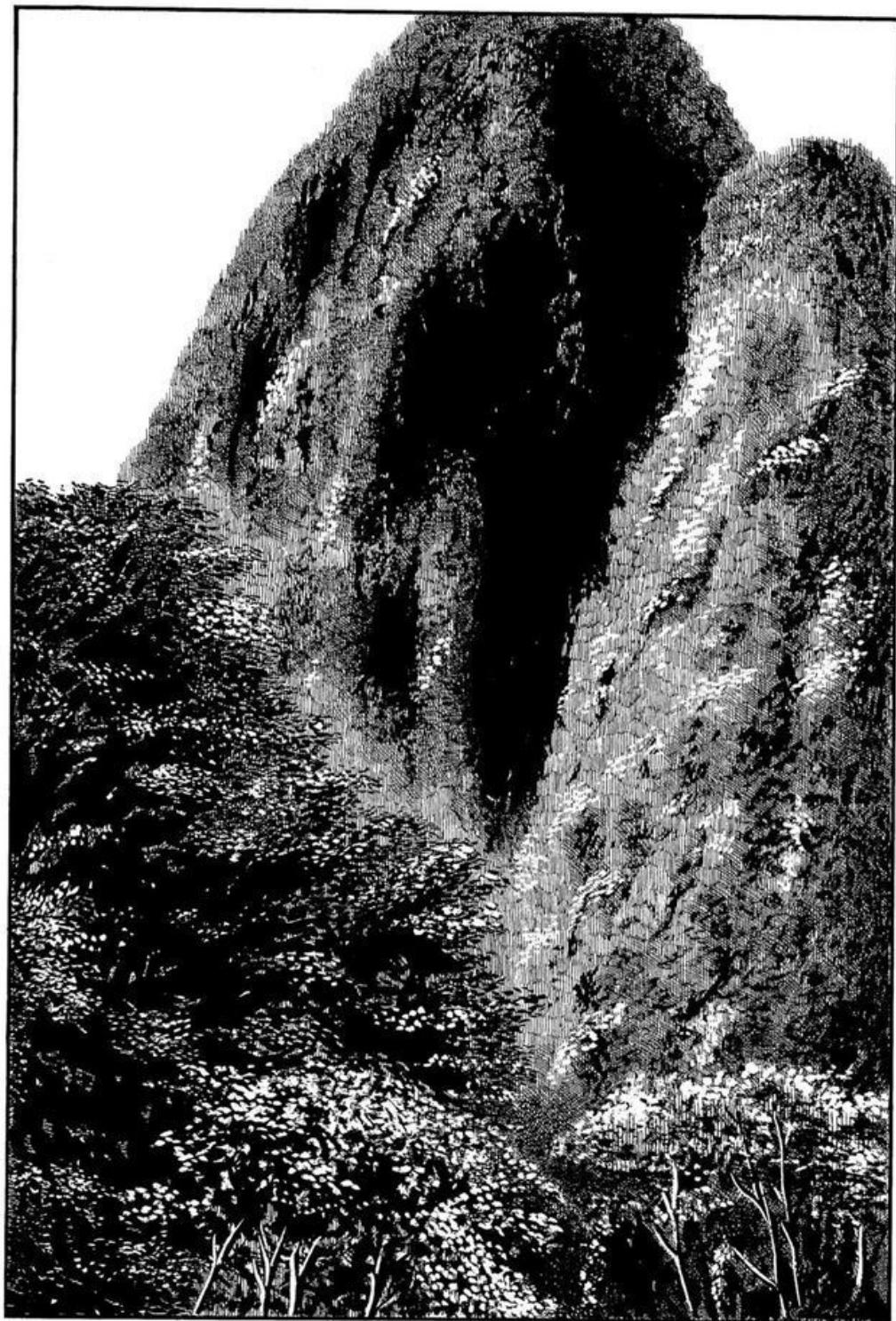


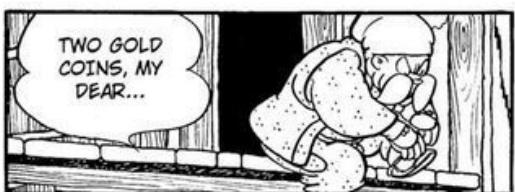
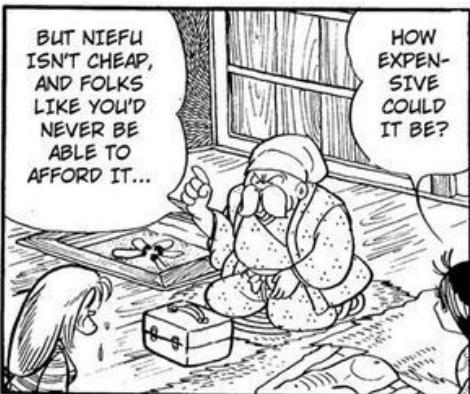
I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INTERVENTION, MASTER MYOUN... IN HELPING TO KEEP THE MONKS IN CHECK.

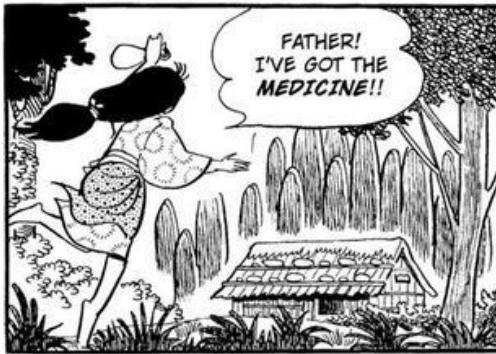




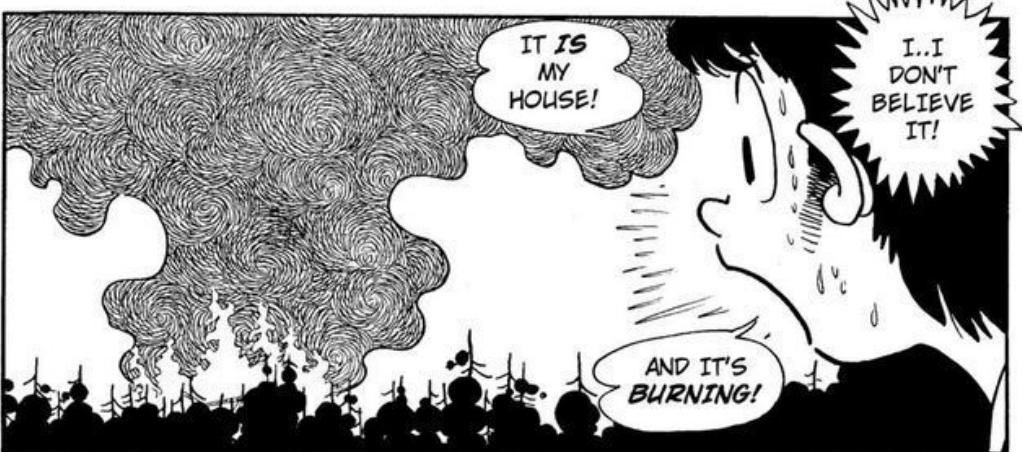


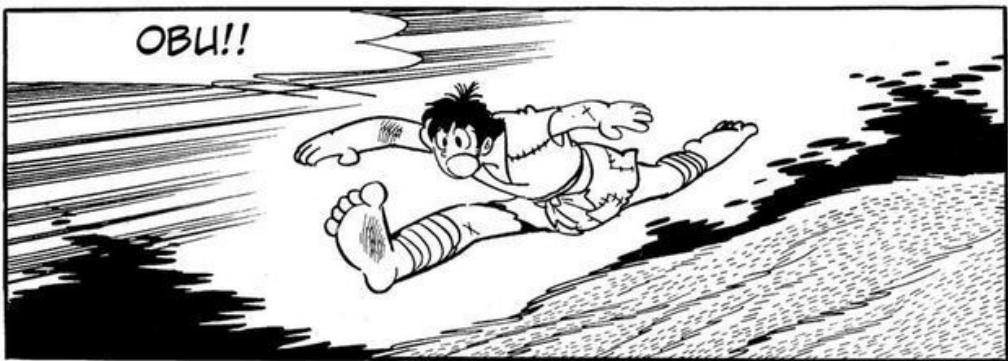


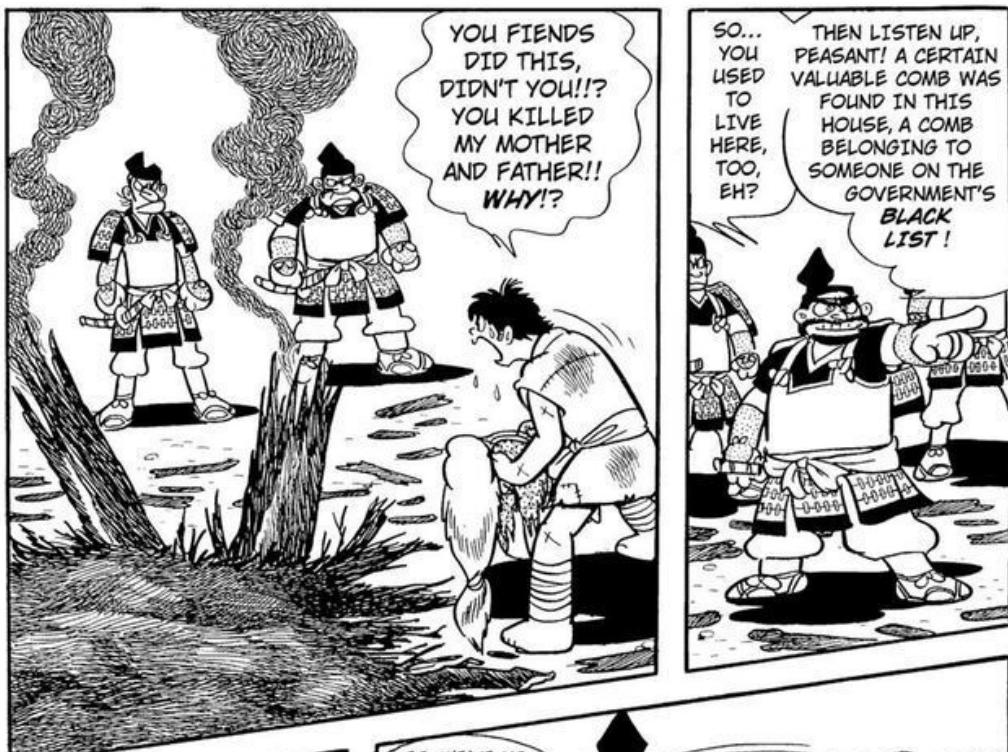


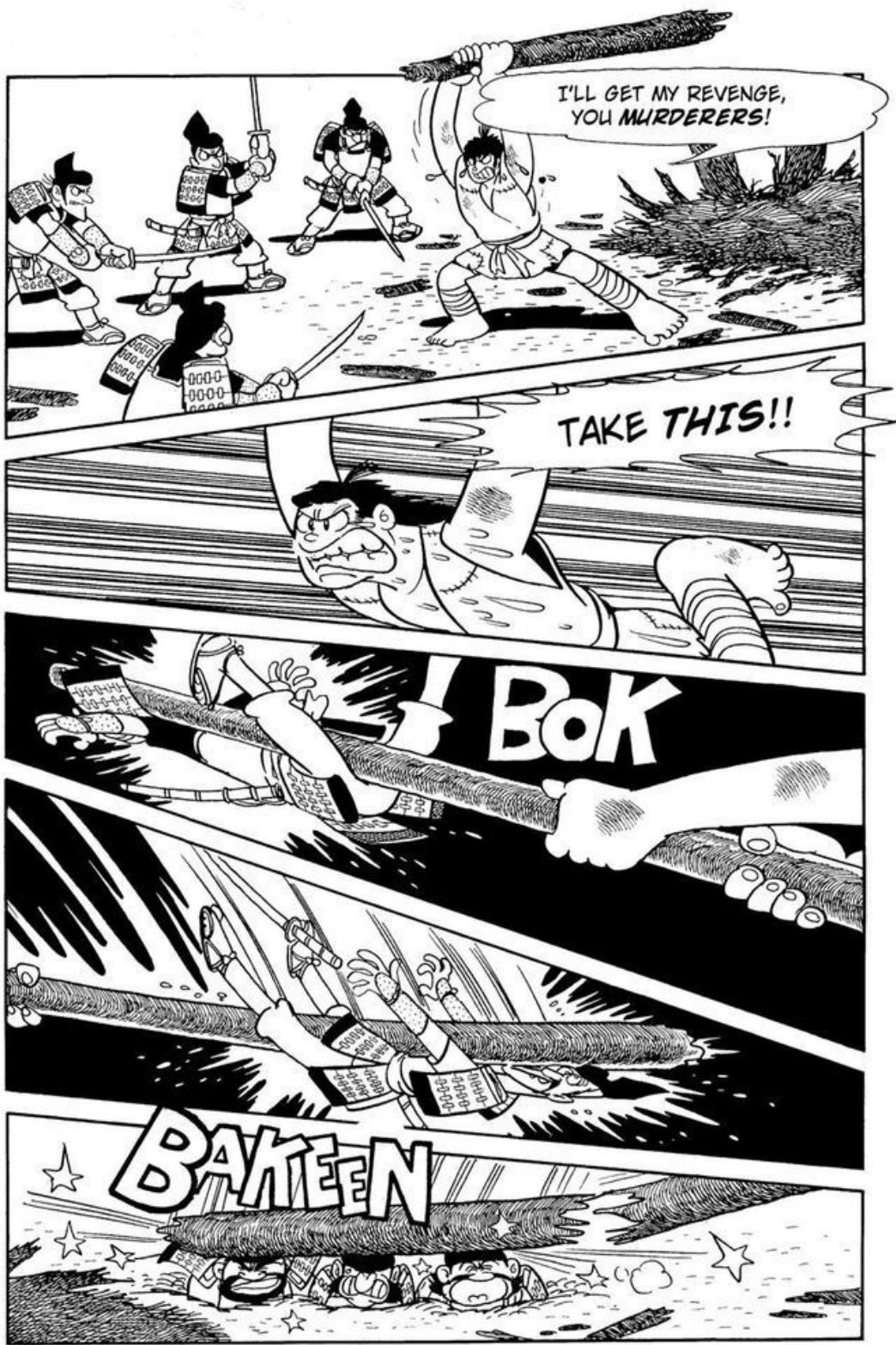




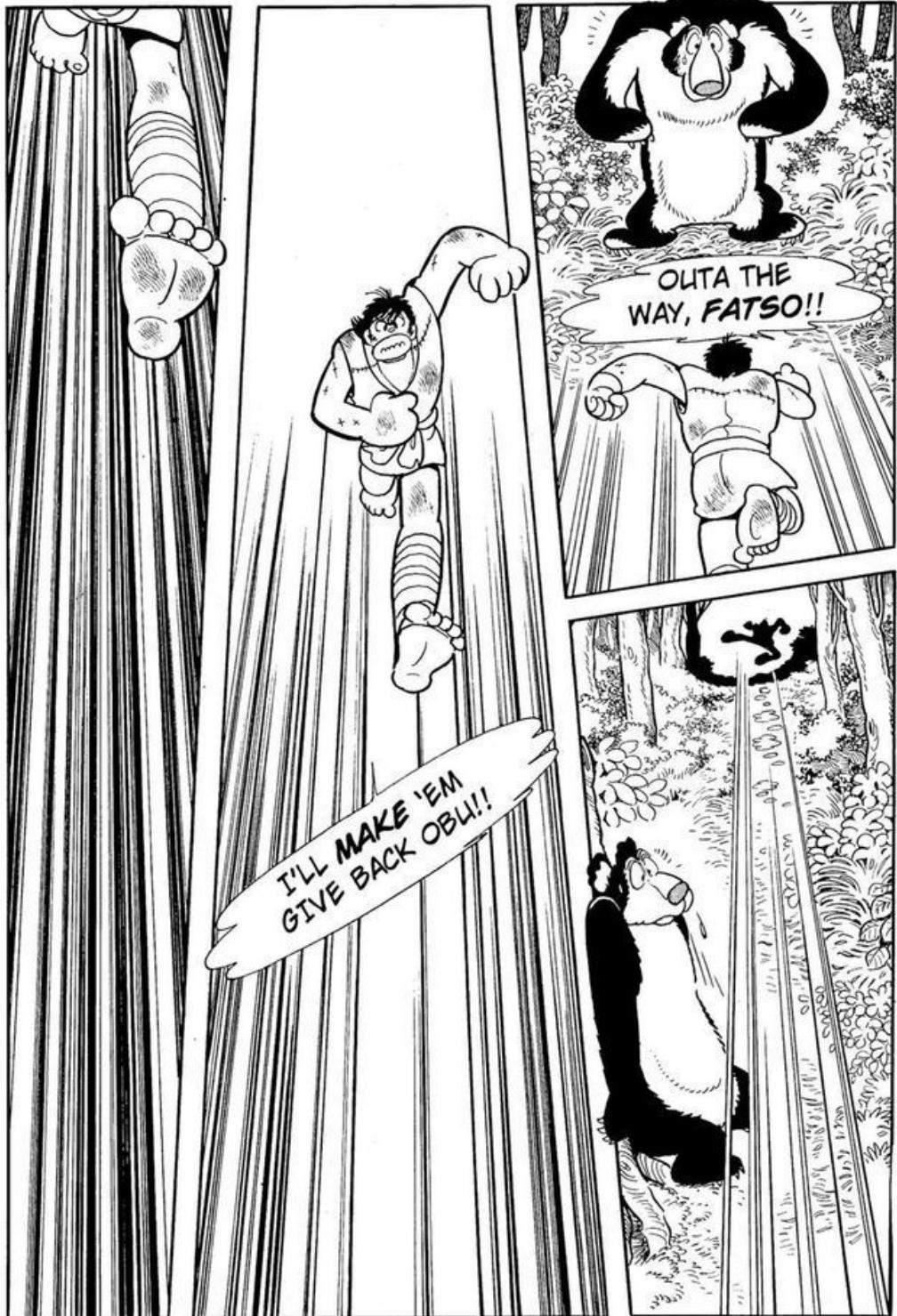


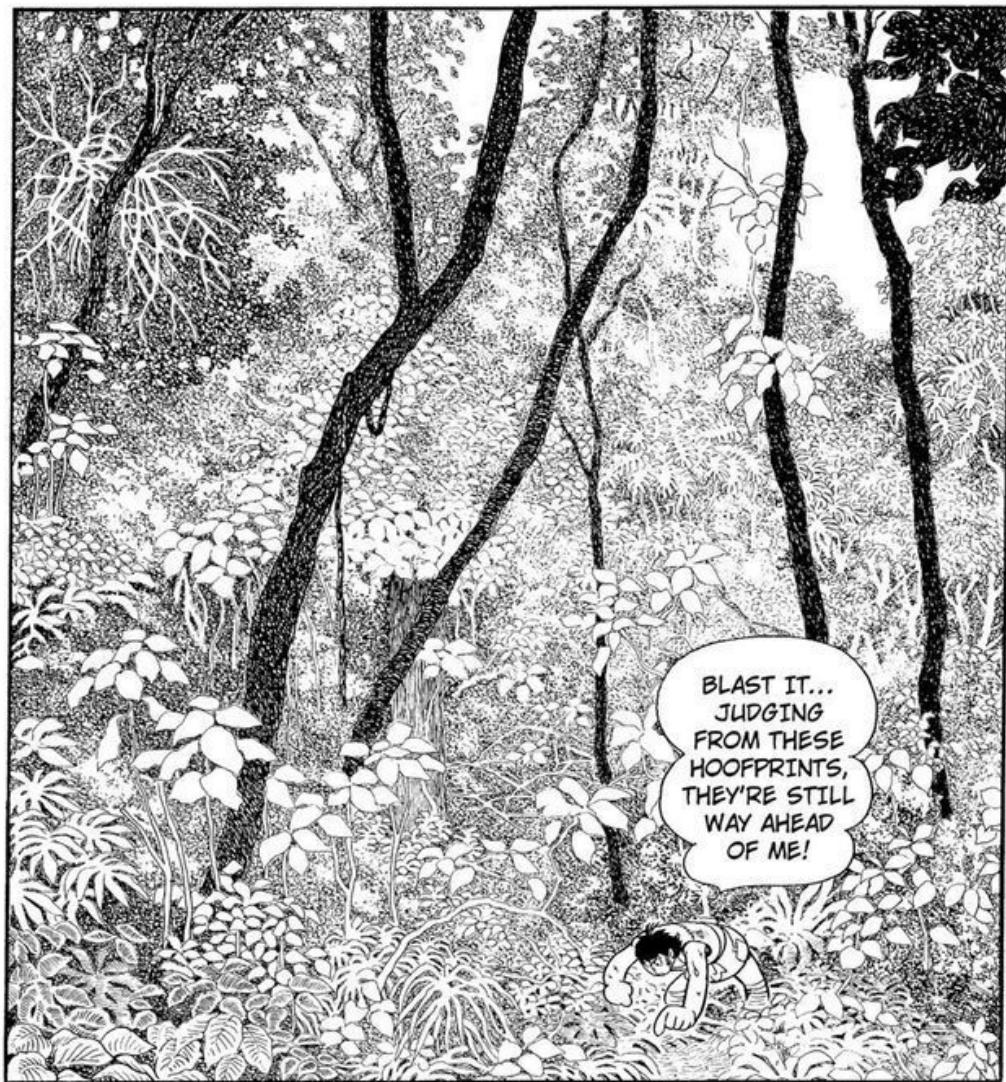


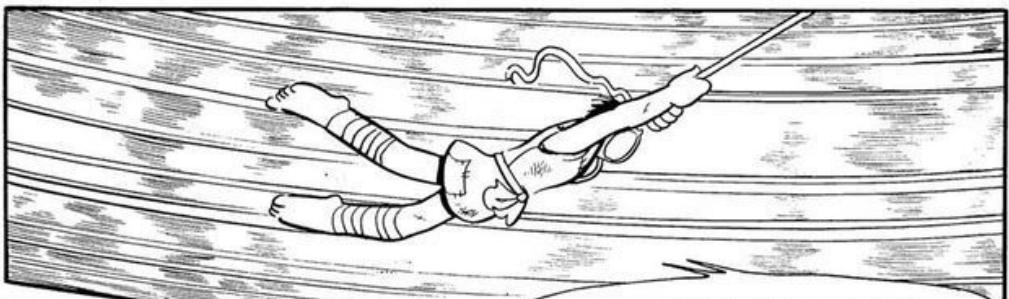




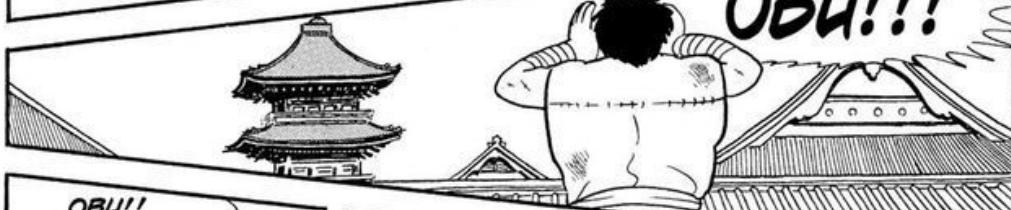
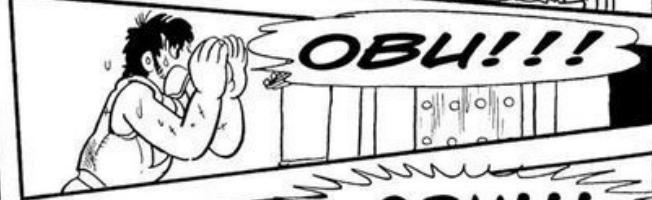
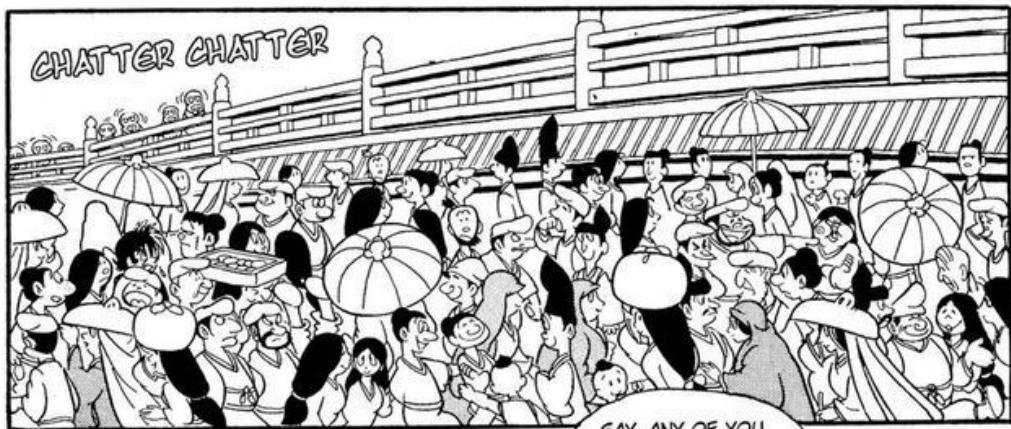




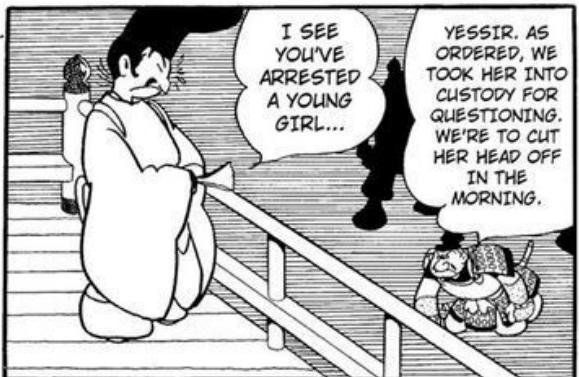
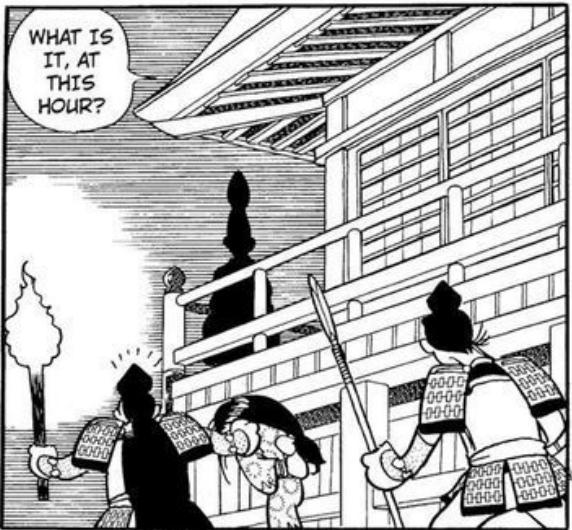


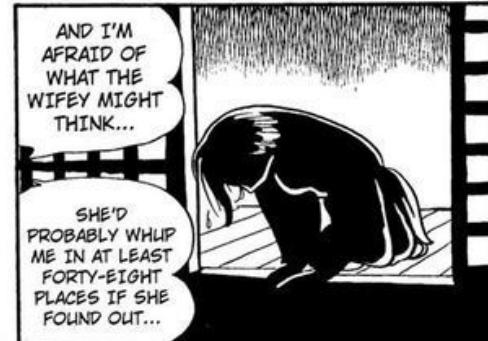
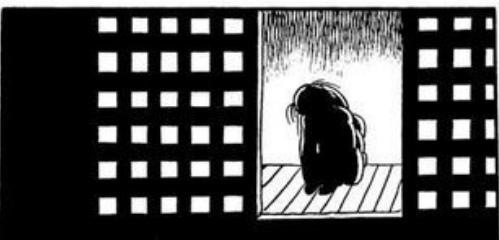
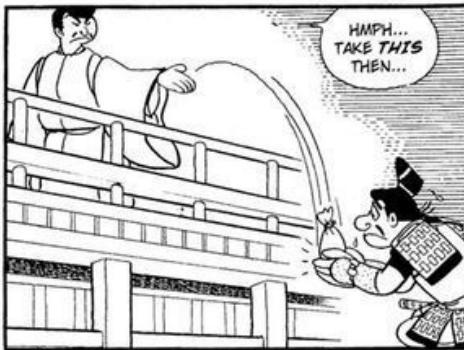


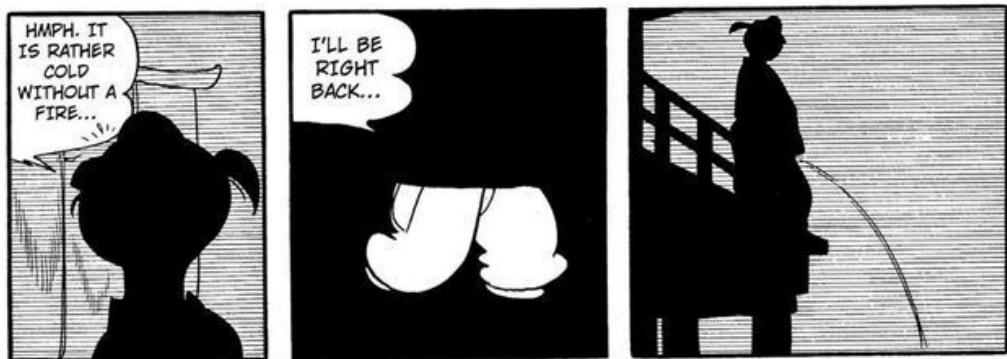


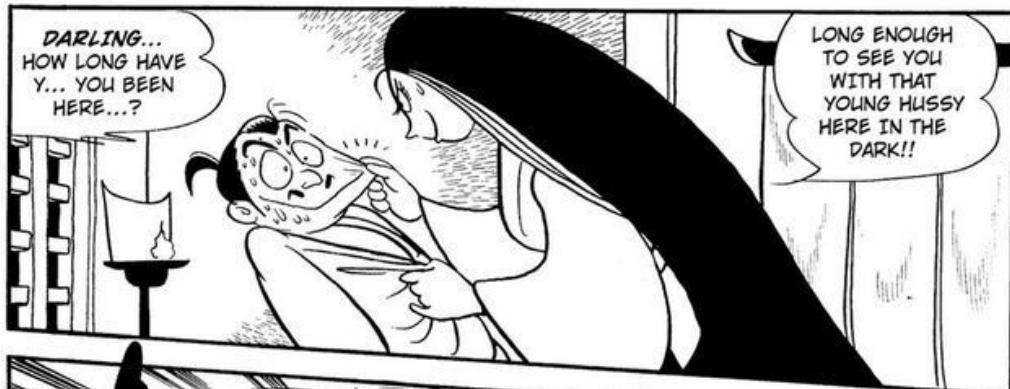












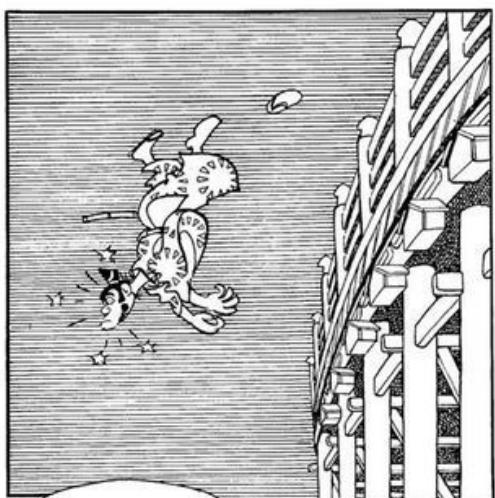
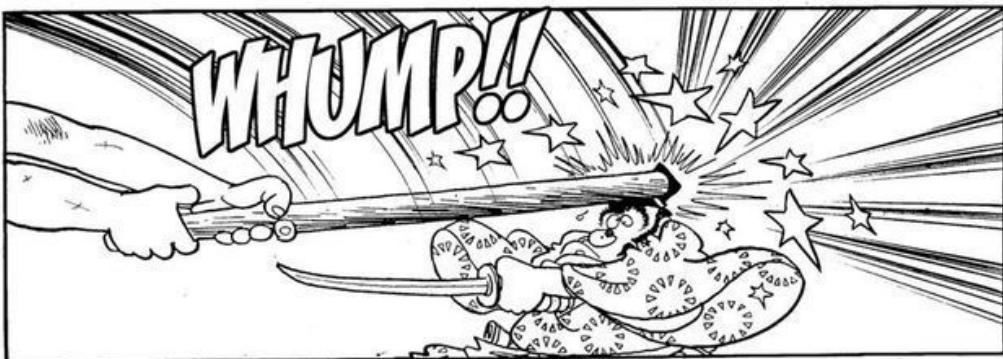




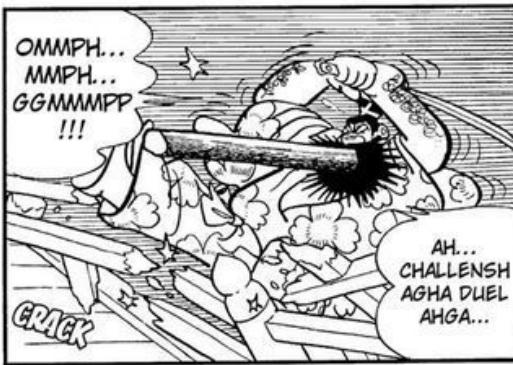
GOJO  
BRIDGE

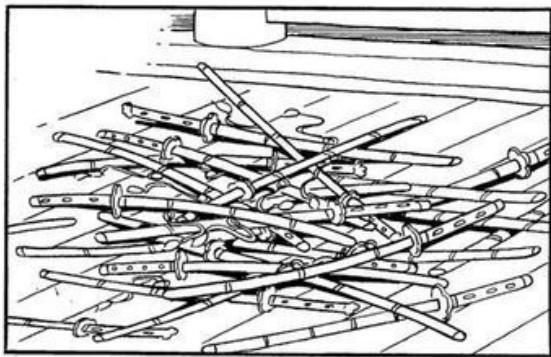
GONG...  
GONG...

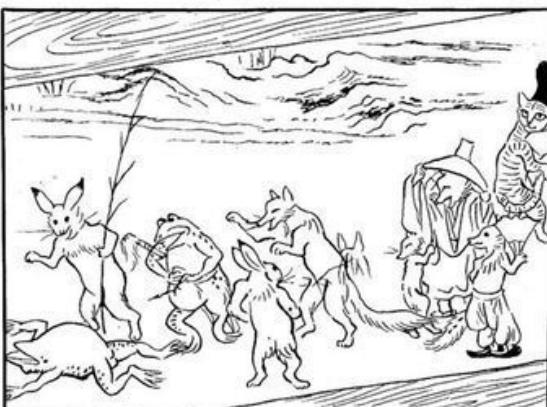
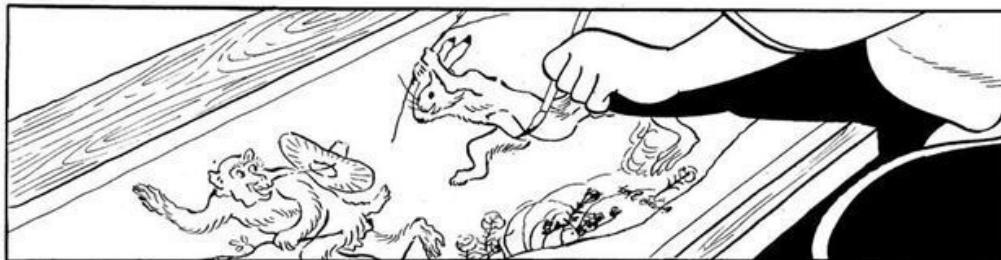


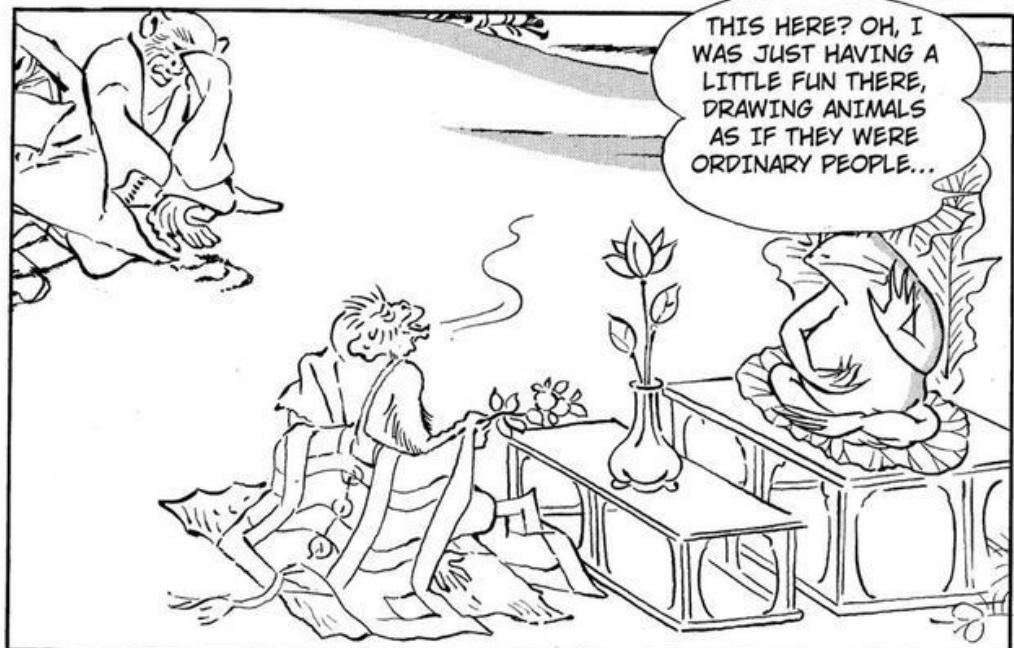


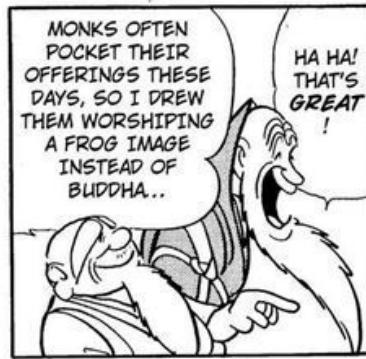
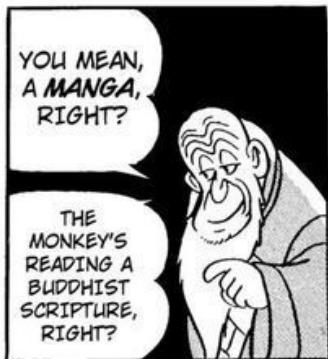


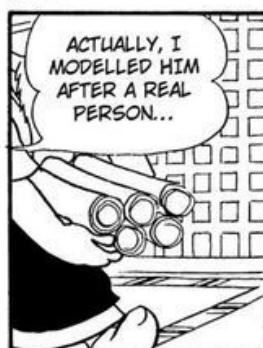
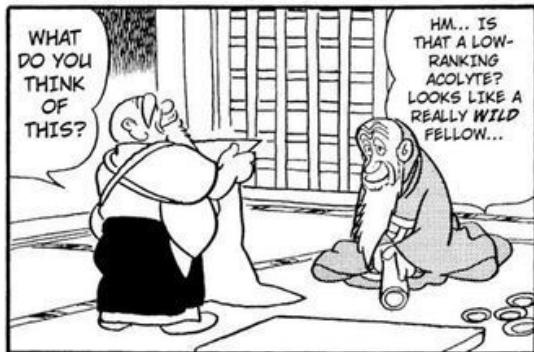




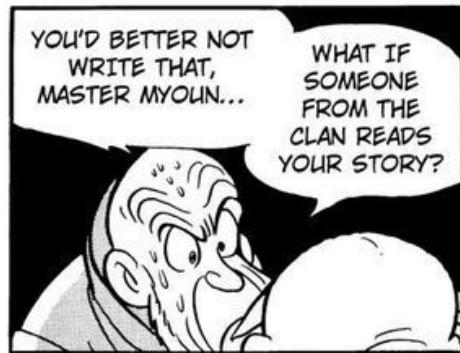


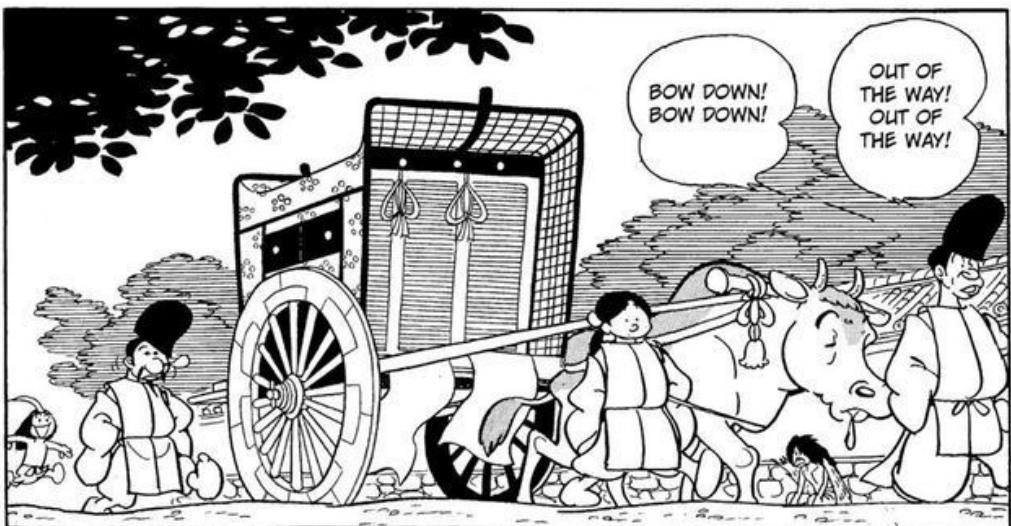
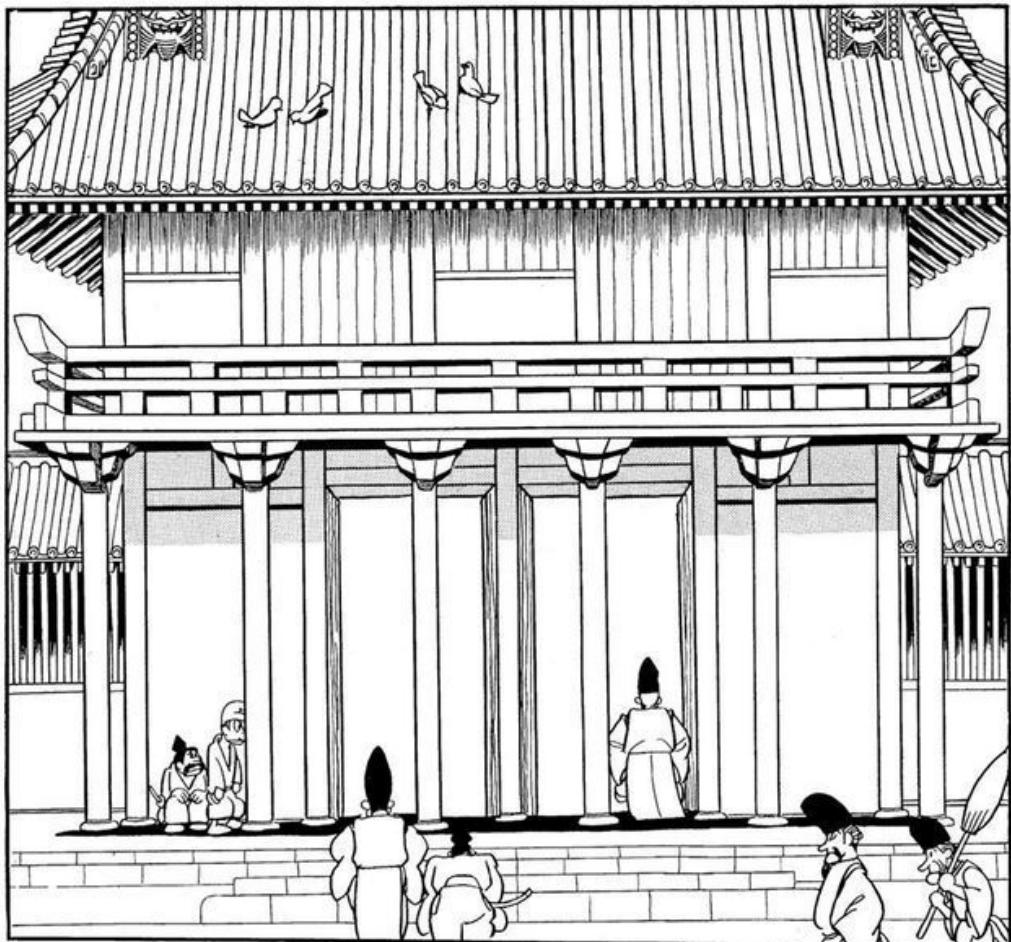


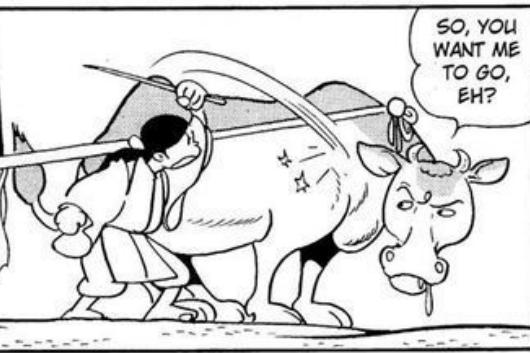
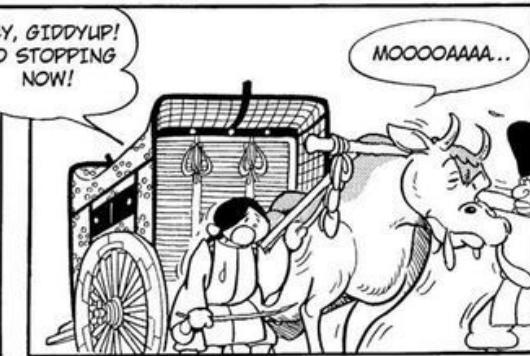
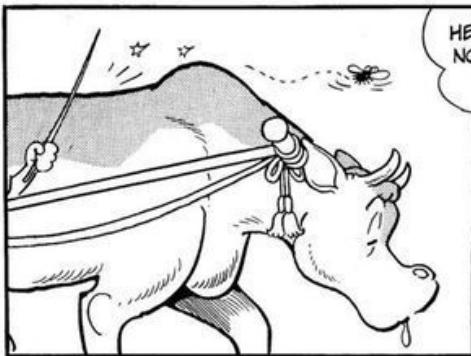


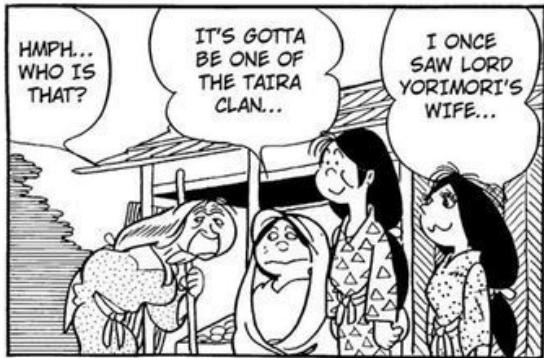


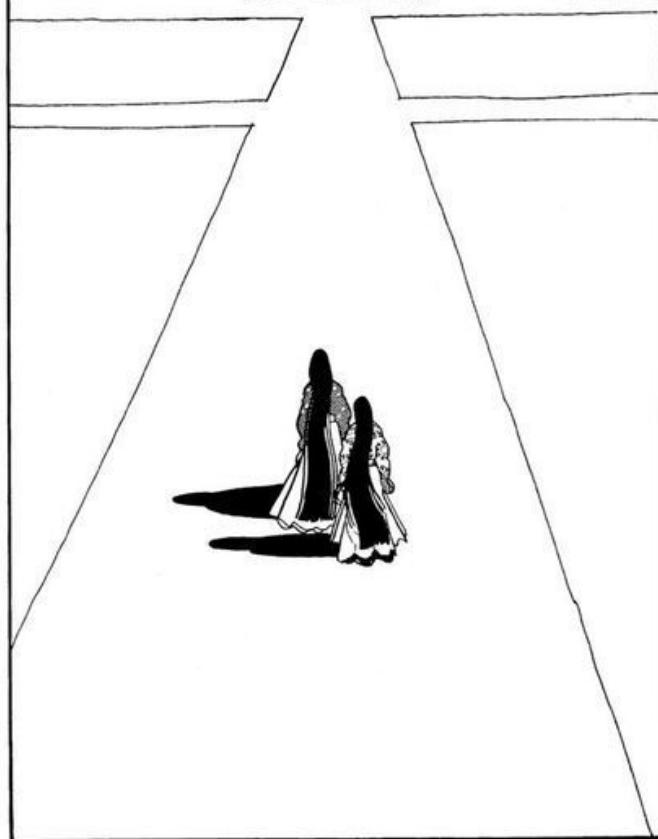
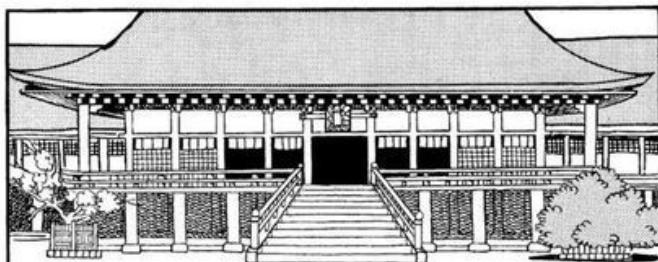
\*EIZAN IS ANOTHER NAME FOR ENRYAKU-JI TEMPLE ON MT. HIE-ZAN. ACCORDING TO THE ORIGINAL LEGEND OF BENKEI, HE HAD BEEN TAUGHT THERE BY THE BISHOP SAITO SAKURA.

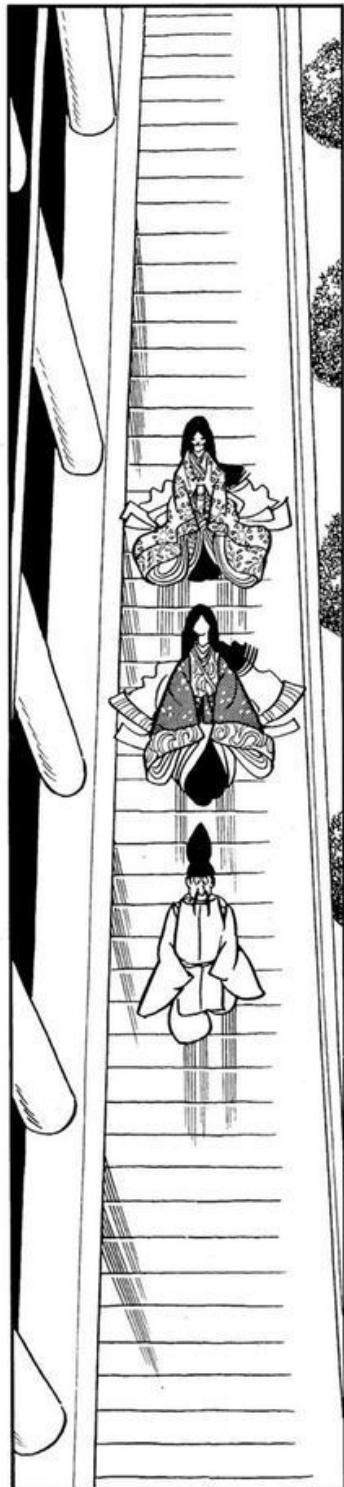










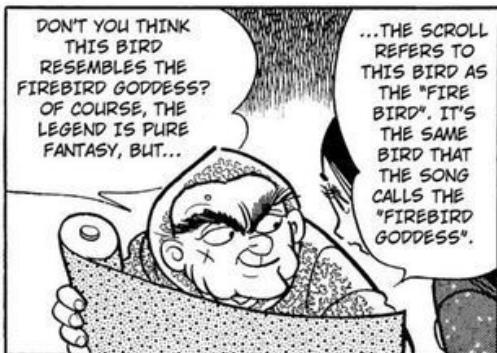




I AM  
PLEASED TO  
SEE THAT MY  
FATHER-IN-  
LAW IS OF  
GOOD HEALTH  
AND...

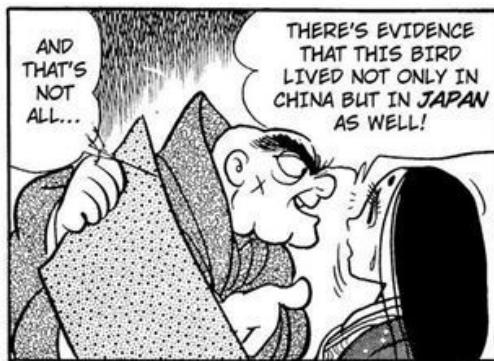


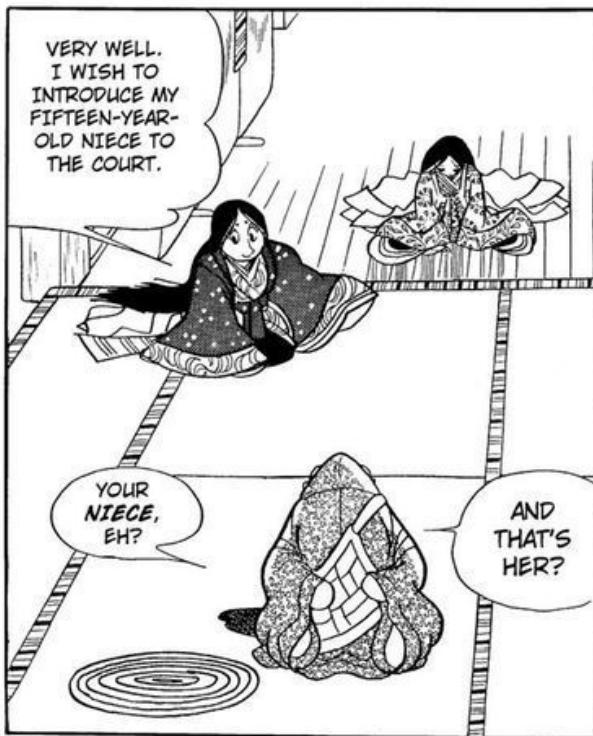
FORGET THE  
FORMALITIES. I'D LIKE  
YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT  
THE DRAWING ON THIS  
SCROLL... IT JUST  
ARRIVED ON A SHIP  
FROM THE SONG COURT  
IN CHINA.

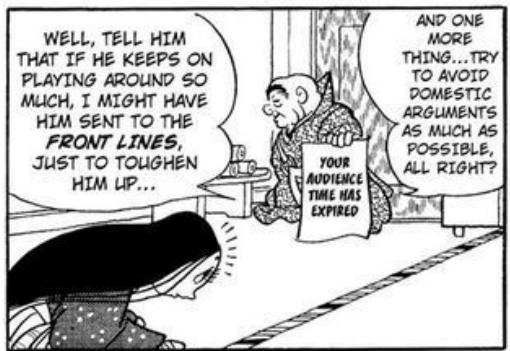
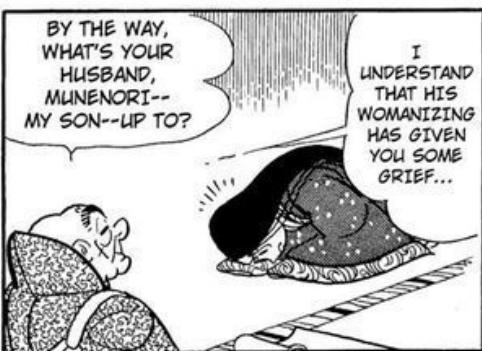
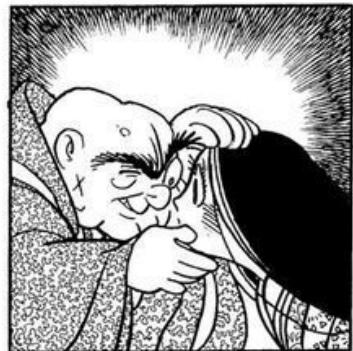
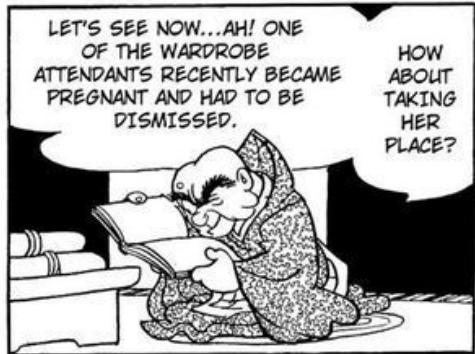


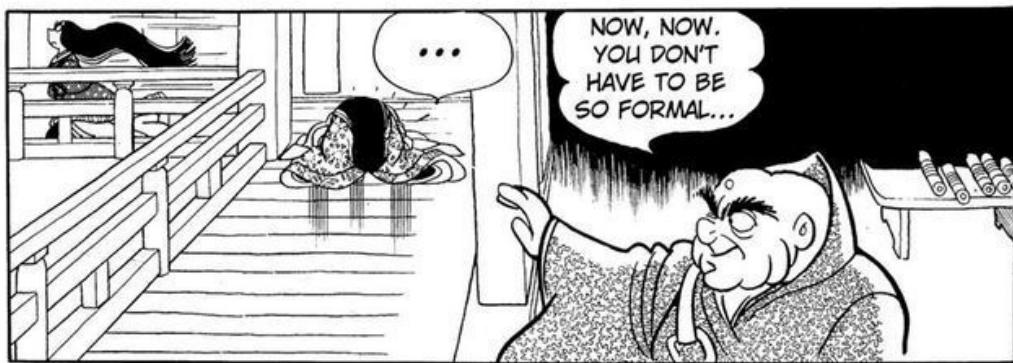
...THE SCROLL  
REFERS TO  
THIS BIRD AS  
THE "FIRE  
BIRD". IT'S  
THE SAME  
BIRD THAT  
THE SONG  
CALLS THE  
"FIREBIRD  
GODDESS".





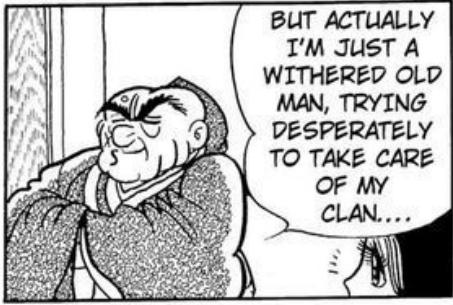




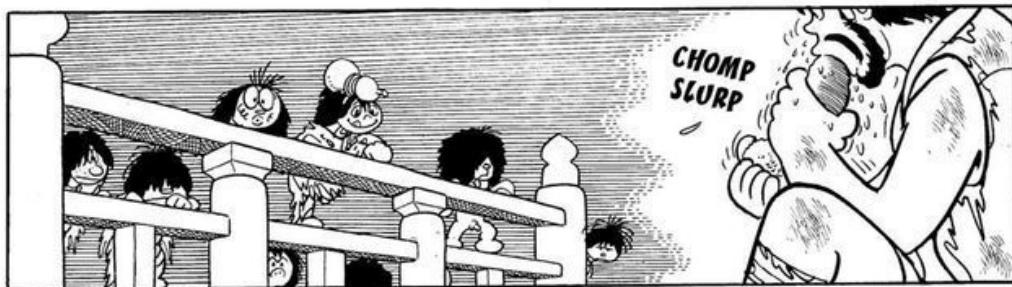
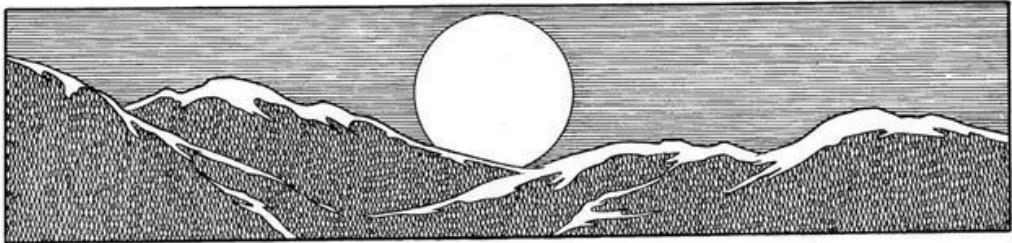




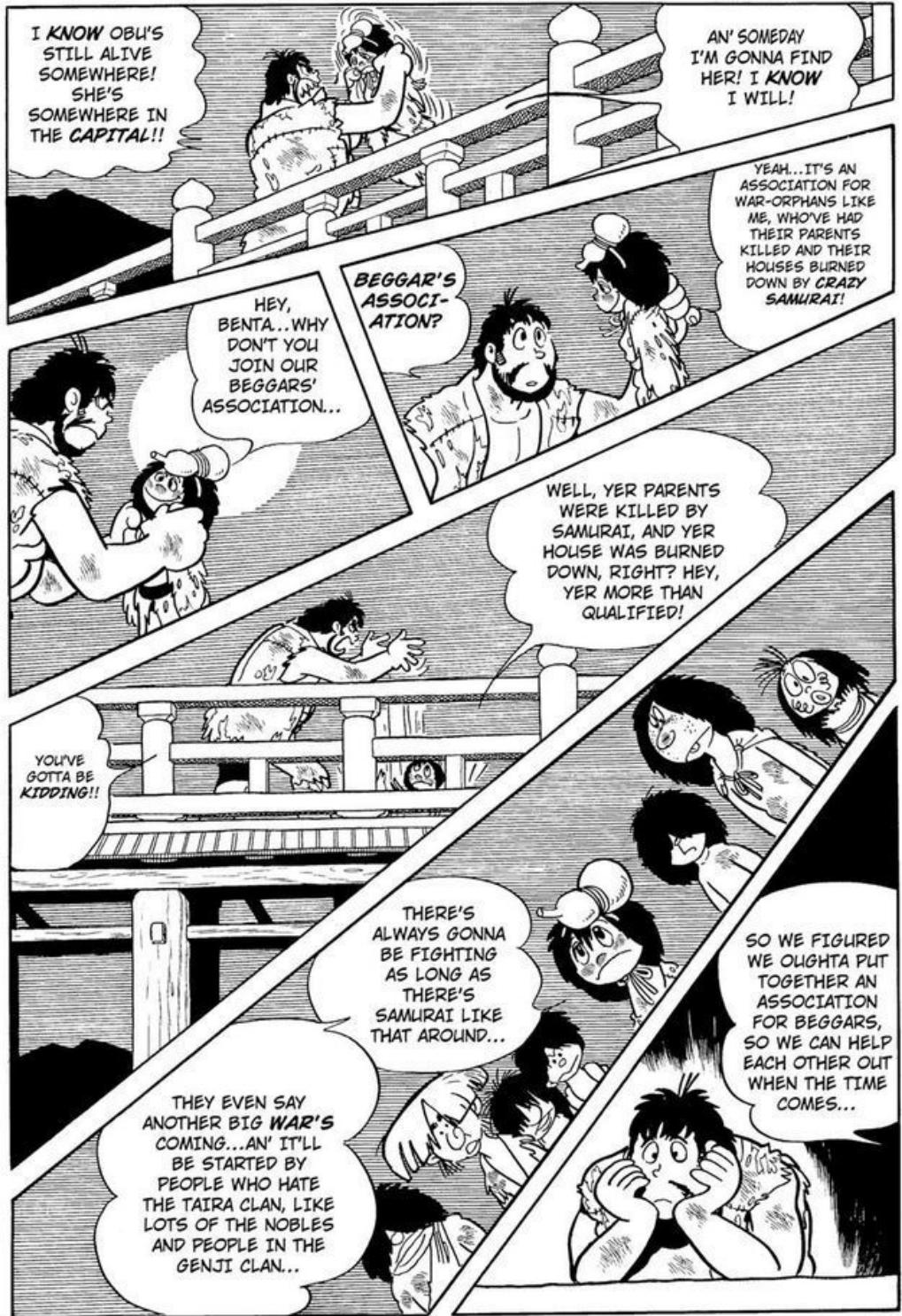
AND I CAN BANISH ANY COURT NOBLE TO A REMOTE ISLAND IF I WANT.

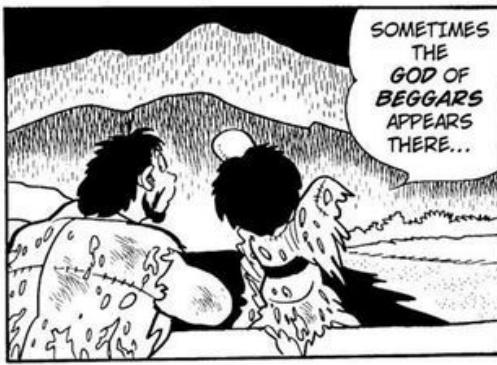


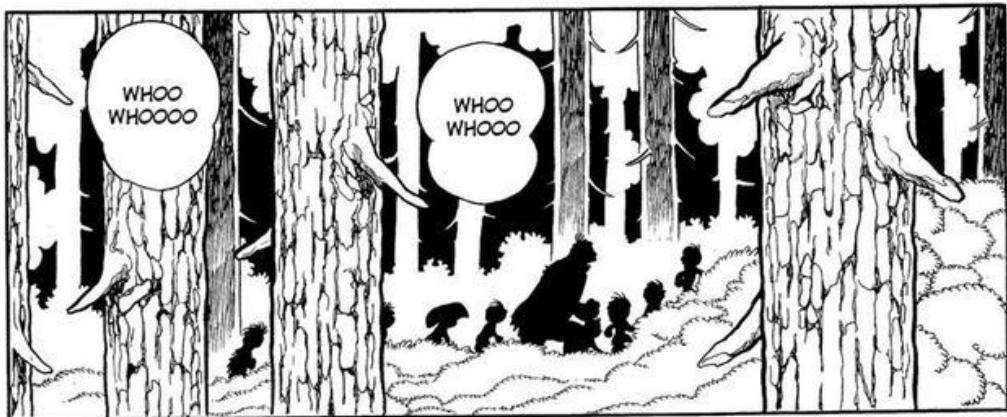


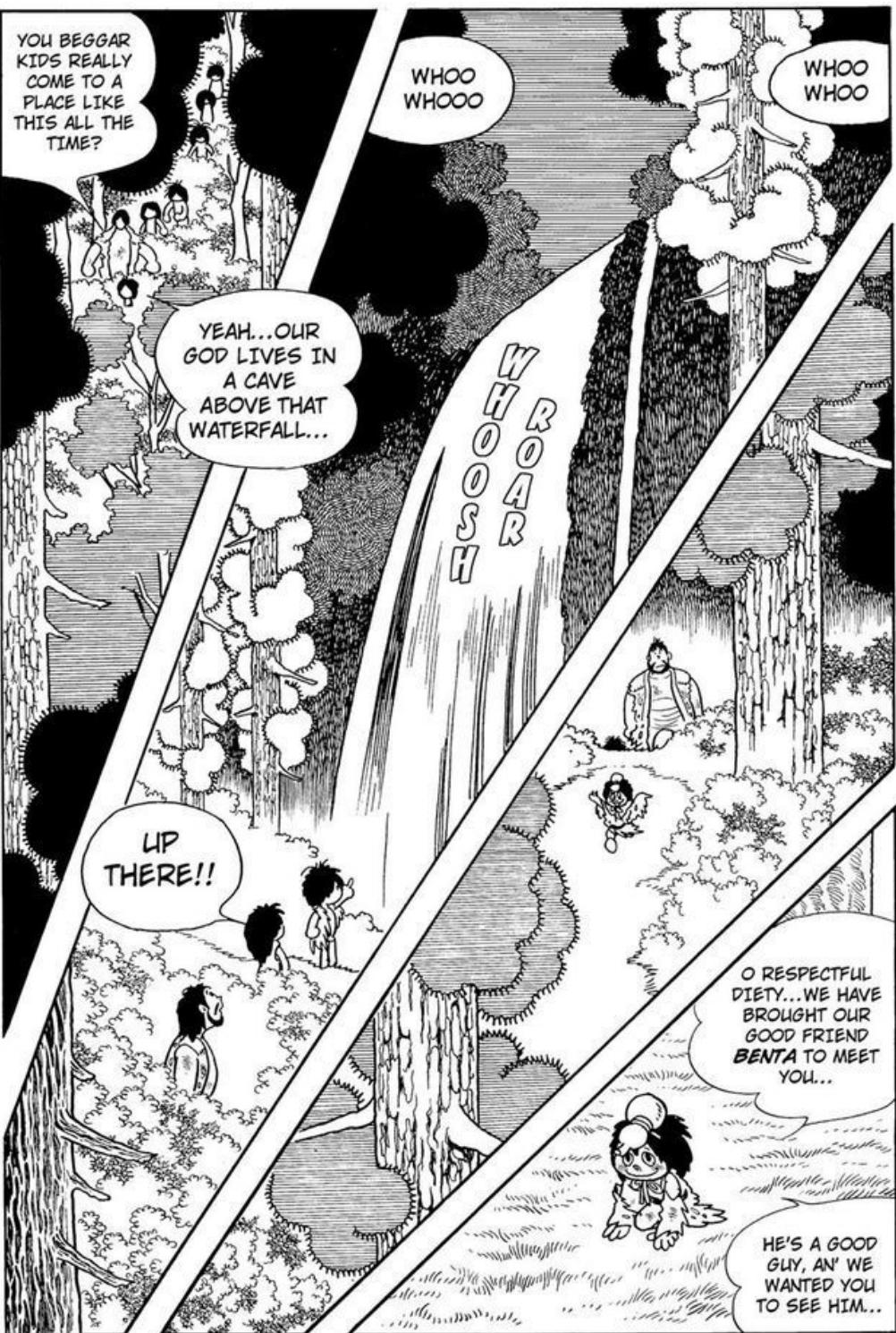


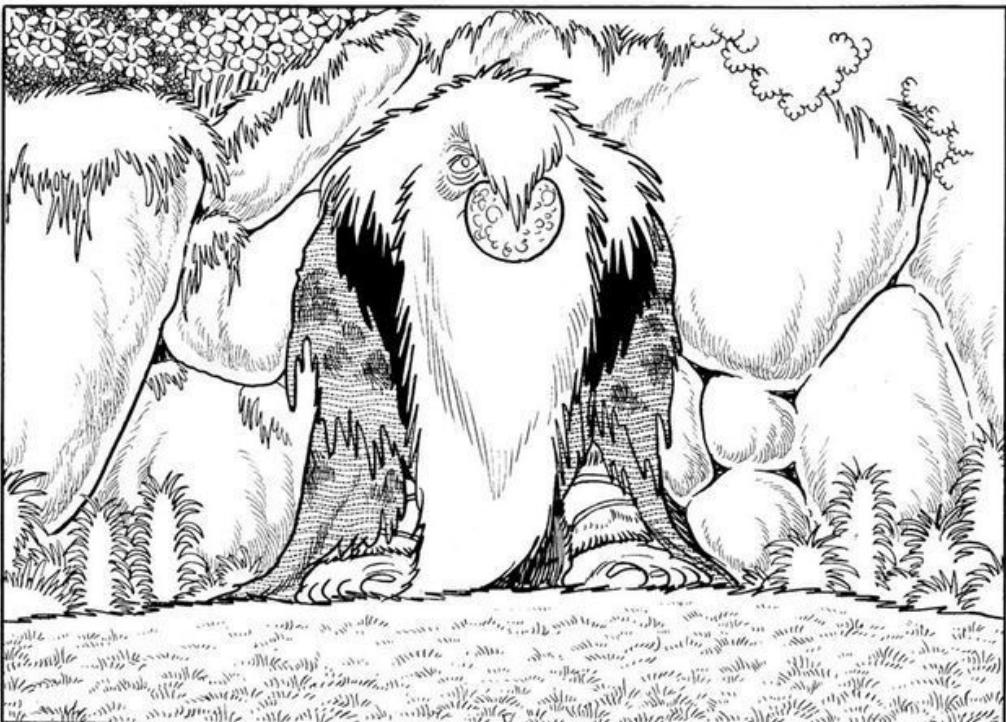


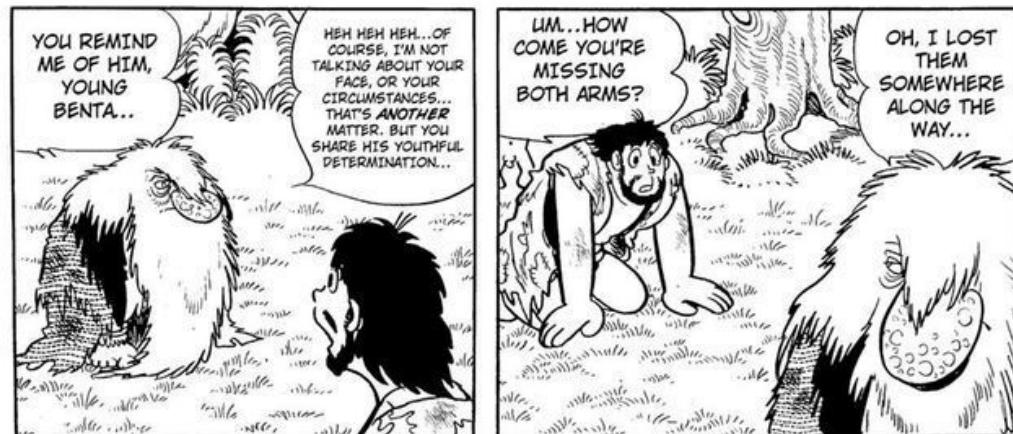
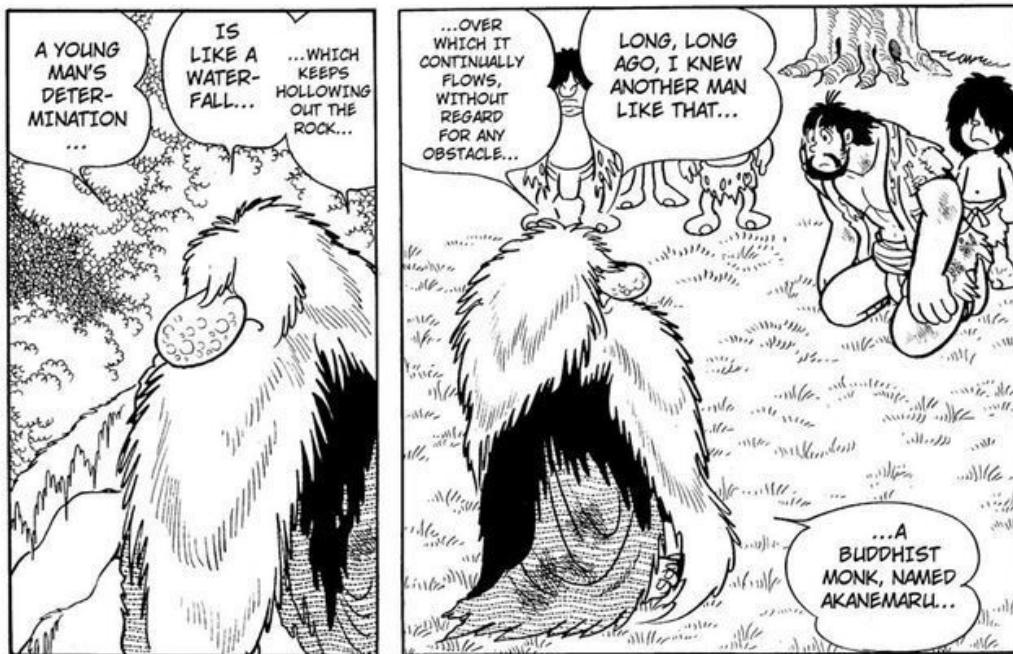


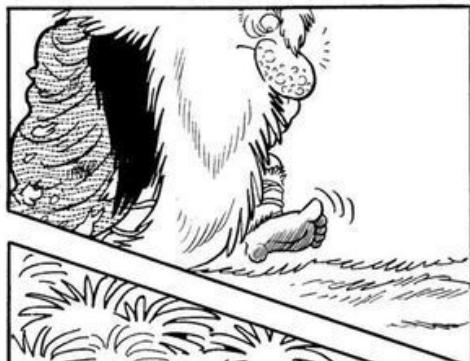






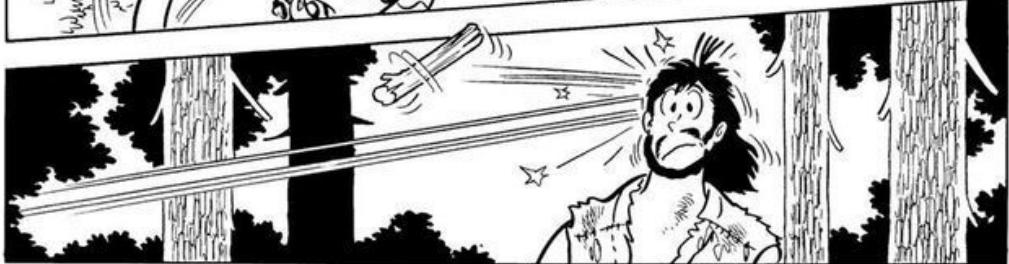


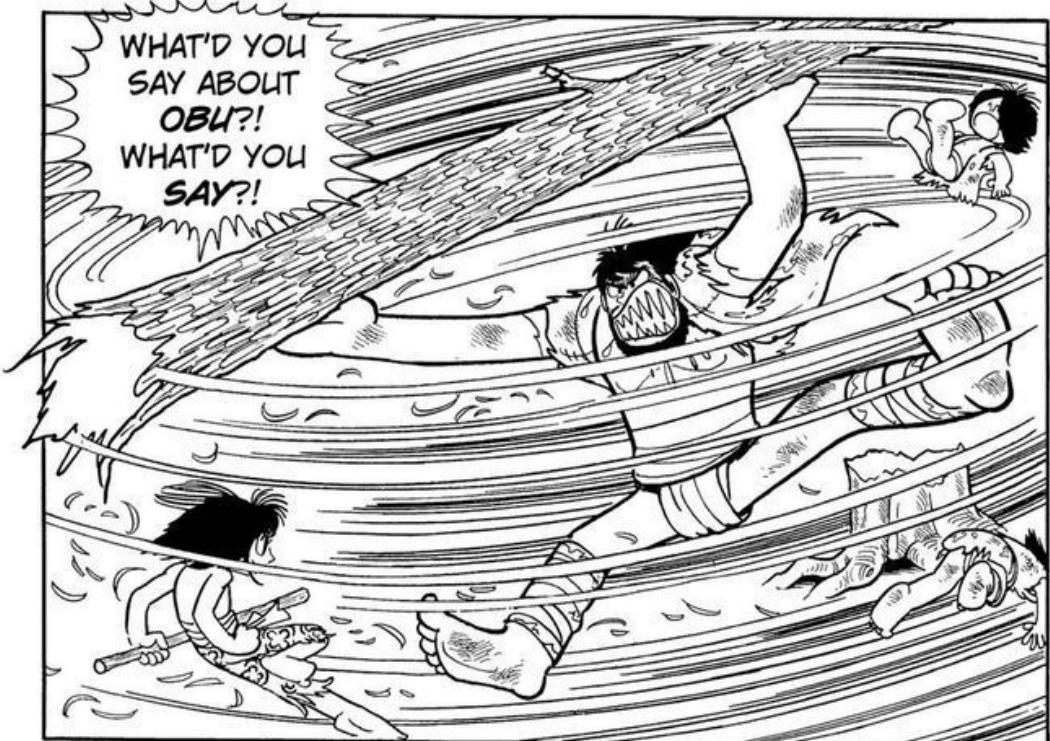
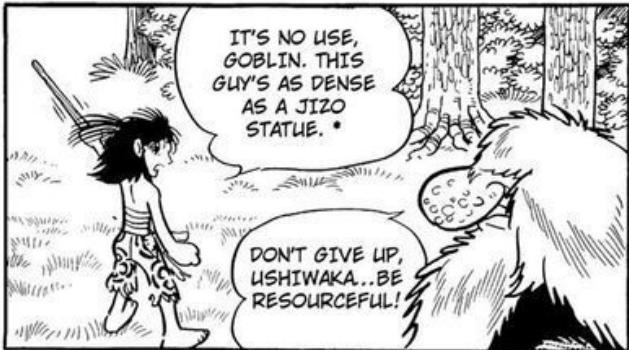




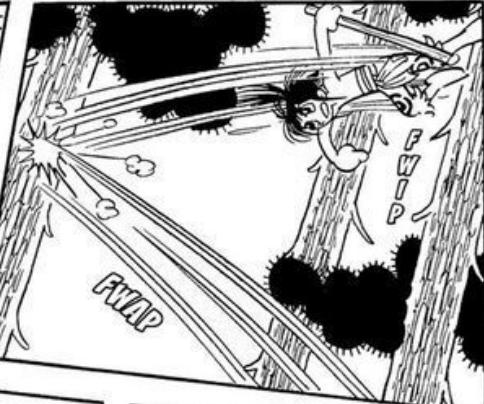
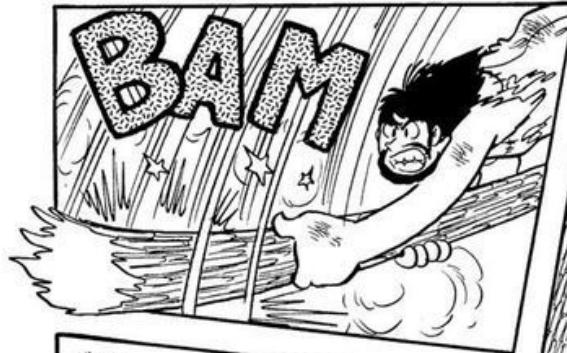








\*SMALL STONE STATUES OF JIZO, THE BUDDHIST PATRON SAINT OF CHILDREN, ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE JAPANESE COUNTRYSIDE

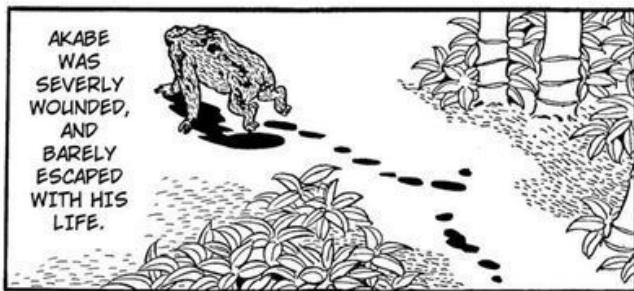
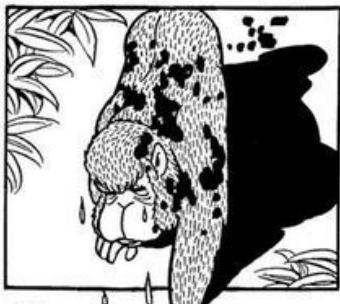


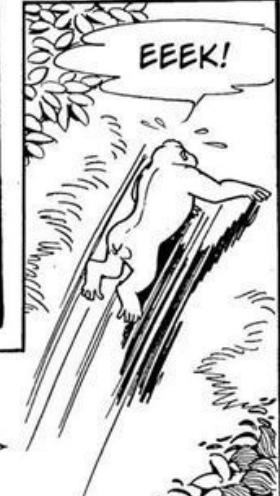
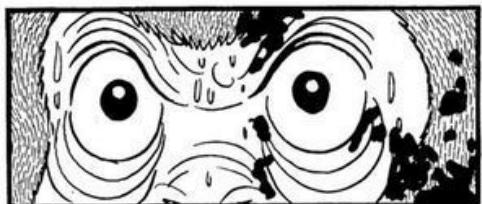




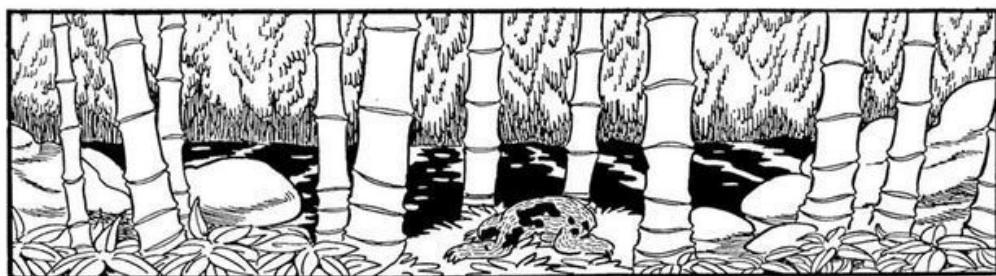


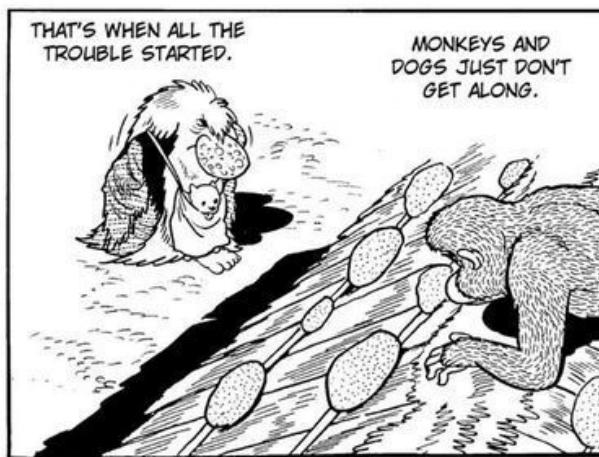
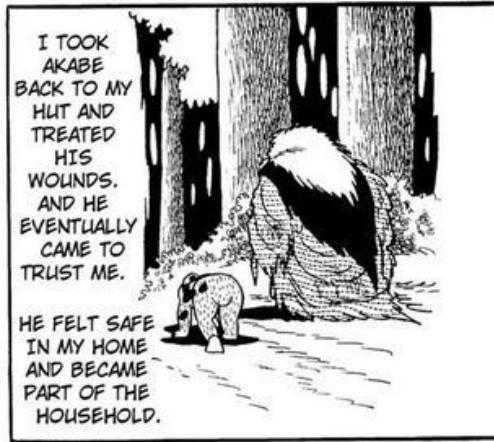
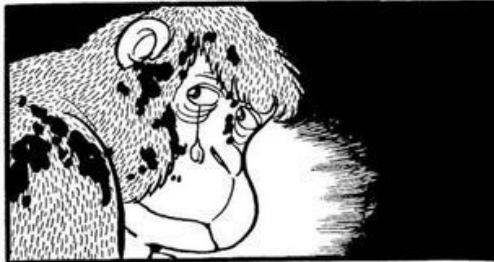
RESTING PLACE OF AKABE  
RESTING PLACE OF SHIROBE

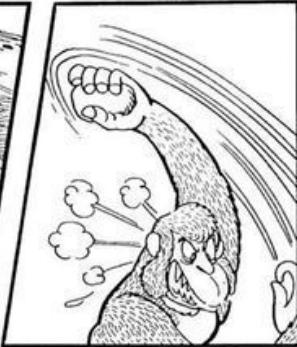
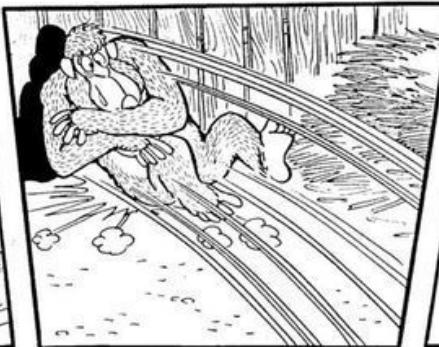
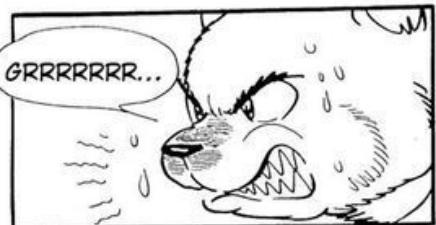
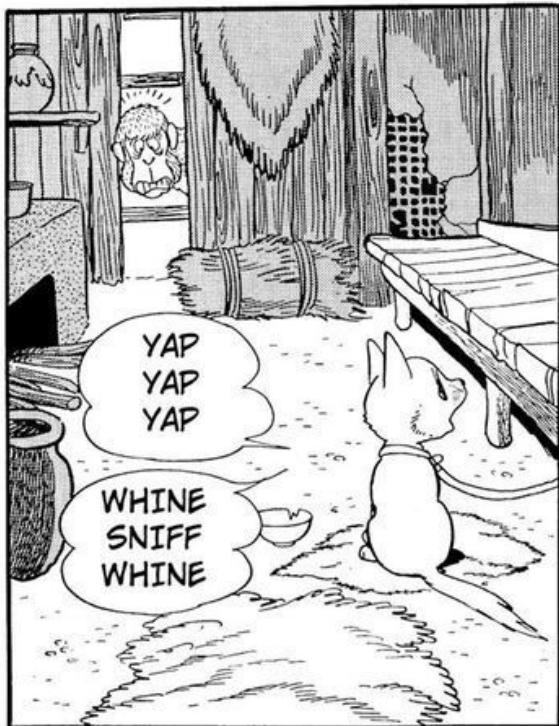


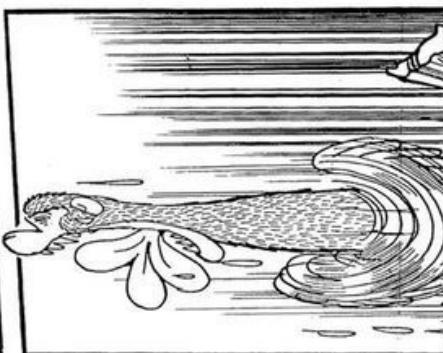
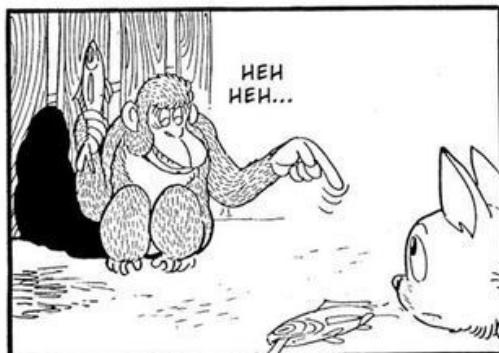
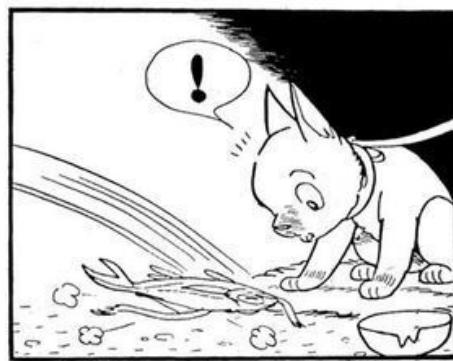
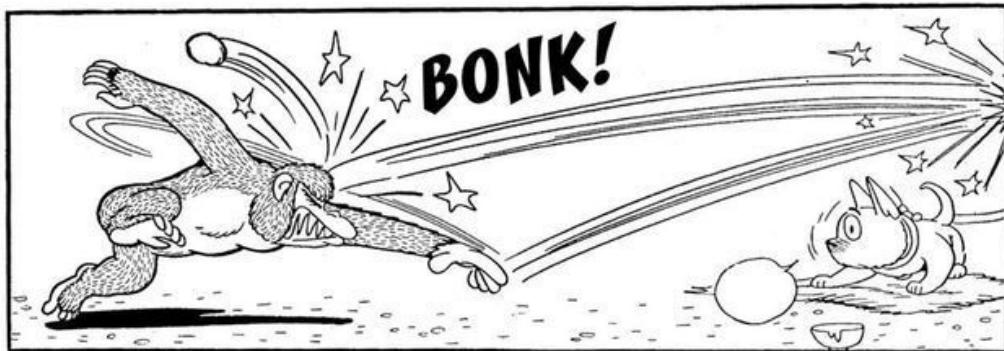


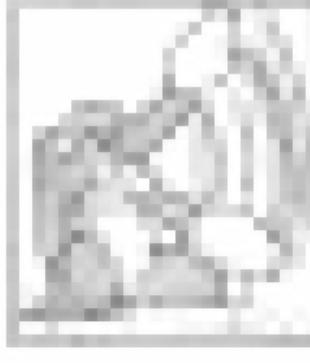
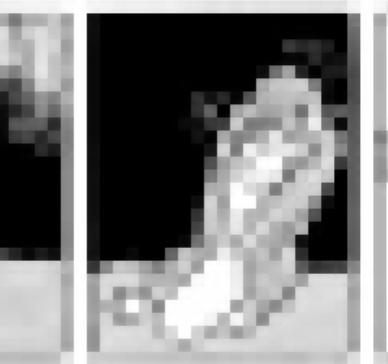
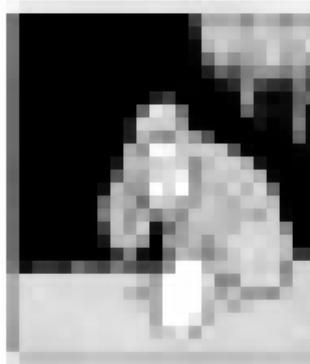
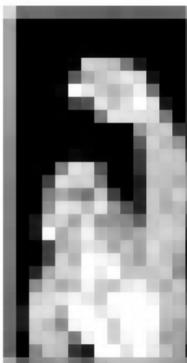
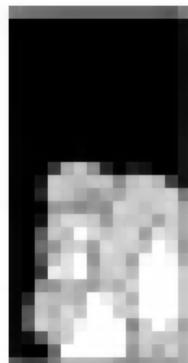
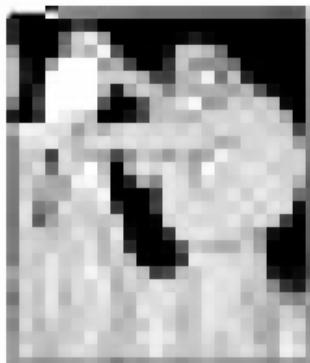
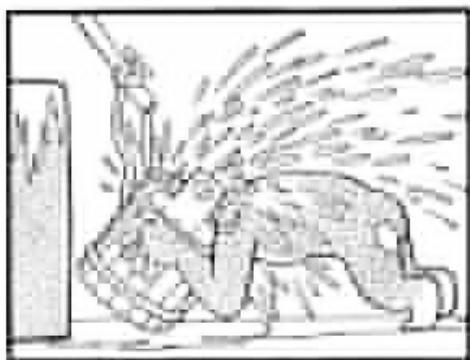
AKABE STILL HOPED TO EVENTUALLY RETURN TO THE MOUNTAIN, WHERE HE WOULD TRY AGAIN TO DEFEAT THE BLACK MONK AND WIN BACK HIS SWEETHEART.

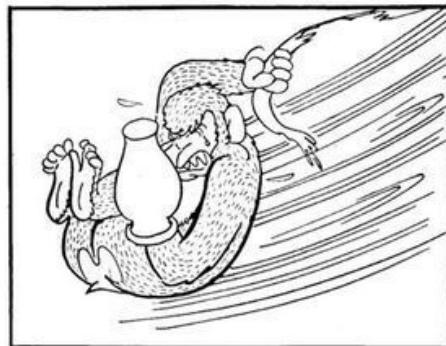
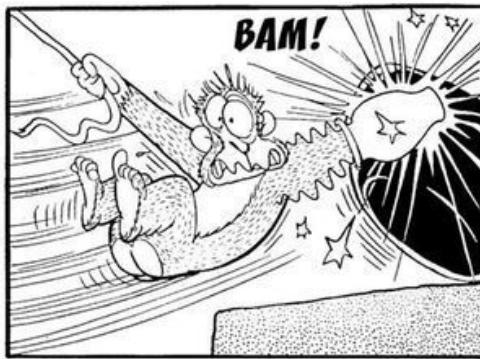
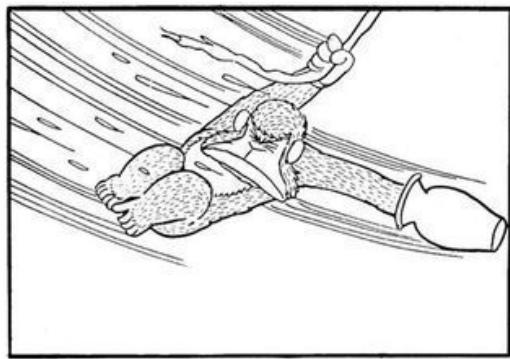
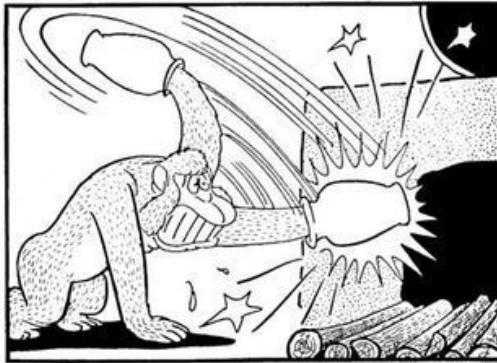
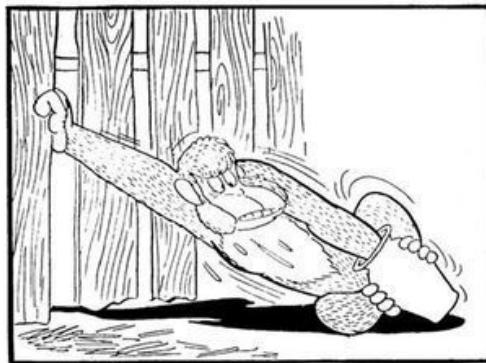






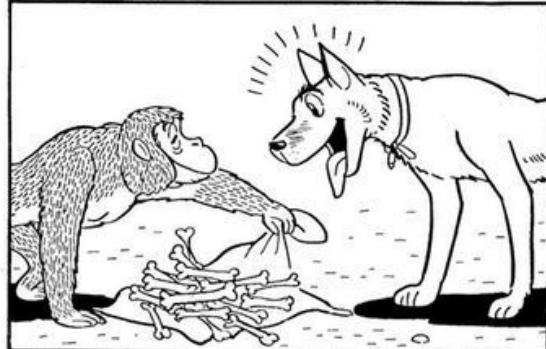
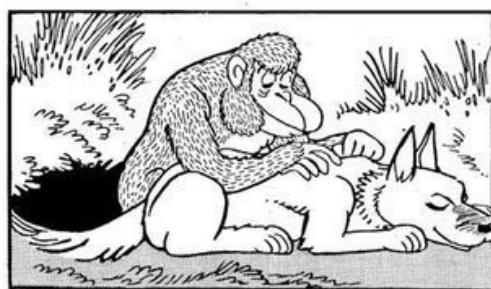






EVENTUALLY,  
THEY GREW  
TO BE LIKE  
BLOOD  
BROTHERS.

AFTER A YEAR, THE LITTLE WHITE DOG, WHOM I NAMED SHIROBE, BECAME INSEPARABLE FROM AKABE. SHIROBE USED TO PUT AKABE ON HIS BACK AND THEY'D GO EVERYWHERE TOGETHER. I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WAS PART OF AKABE'S PLAN, BUT THIS IS THE WAY THINGS DEVELOPED.

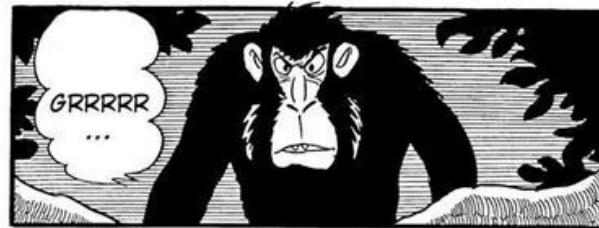


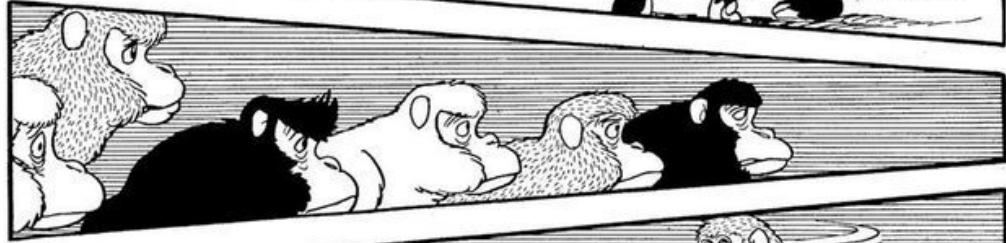
THEN ONE NIGHT, AKABE DECIDED HE'D SEEK PROOF OF SHIROBE'S FRIENDSHIP.



HE ASKED SHIROBE TO TRAVEL WITH HIM BACK TO HIS MEADOW IN THE MOUNTAINS, AND TO LIE THERE IN WAIT FOR HIM. HE HAD FINALLY DECIDED TO TAKE ON HIS OLD RIVAL, BLACK MONK, AGAIN...









AKABE'S PLAN SUCCEEDED. HAVING SHIROBE APPEAR AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT DISTRACTED THE BLACK MONK FOR AN INSTANT, GIVING AKABE THE CHANCE TO STRIKE AT HIS THROAT. IT WAS OVER IN A FLASH, AND WITH THIS VICTORY, AKABE REGAINED POWER OVER HIS MOUNTAIN HOME.

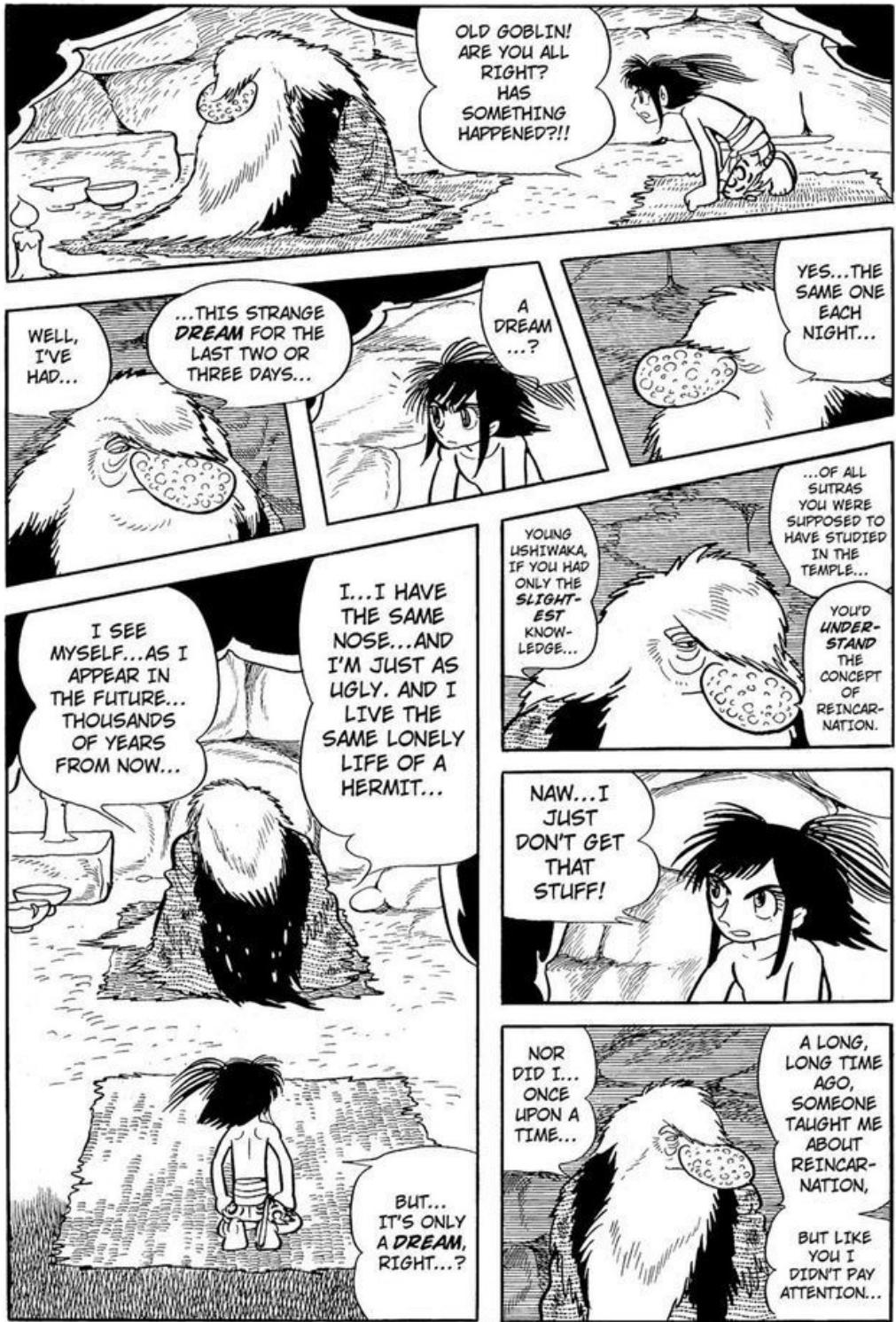


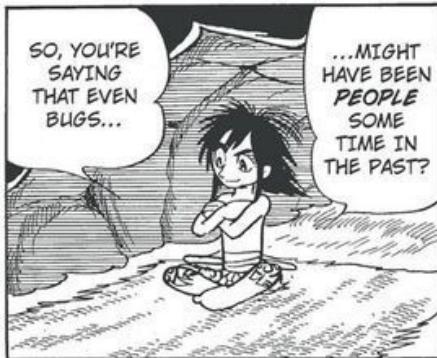


THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN AKABE AND SHIROBE THUS BROUGHT GOOD FORTUNE TO AKABE... EVEN AFTER AKABE BECAME BOSS OF HIS CLAN AGAIN, HE WOULD OFTEN RETURN TO MY HUT AND REKINDELE HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH SHIROBE...

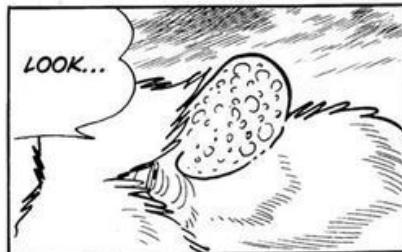
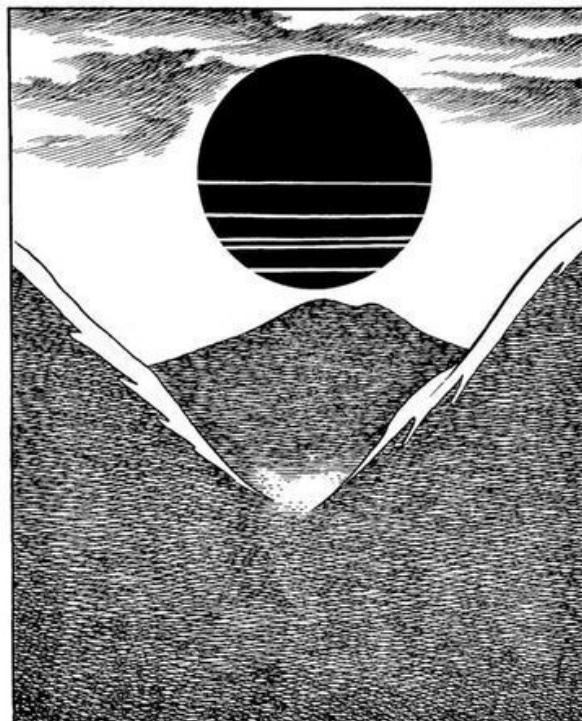
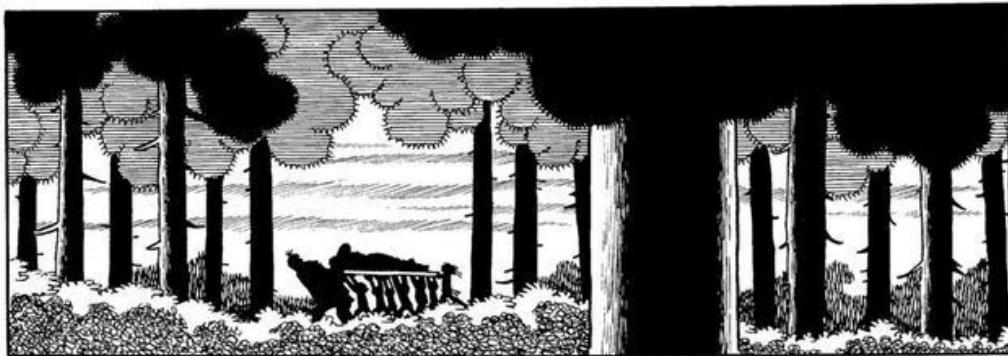












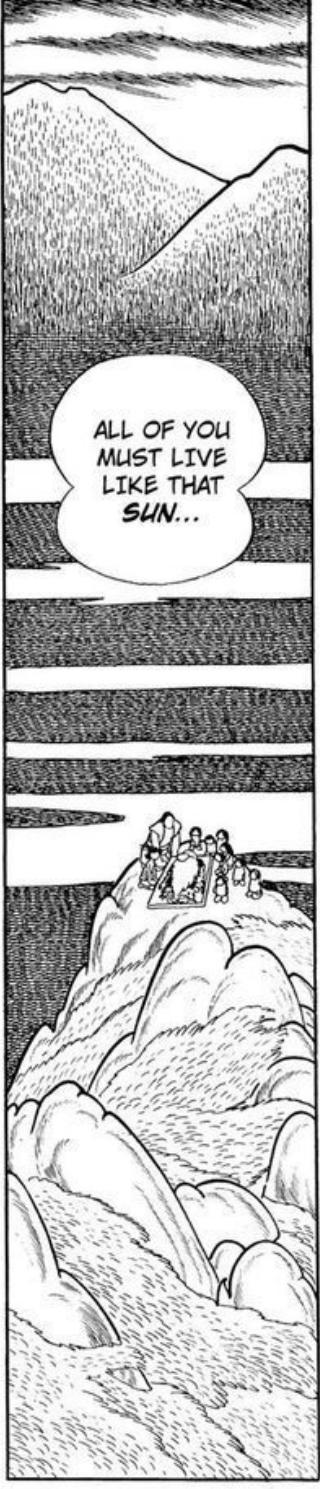


...THE TIME  
WHEN MY  
TWISTED SOUL  
CALSED ME TO  
KILL PEOPLE...

...THE TIME  
WHEN I  
TRAVELED  
THROUGHOUT  
JAPAN WITH  
MY MASTER...

...THE TIME I  
LOST MY ARMS  
AND CAME TO  
LIVE HERE  
ON KURAMA  
MOUNTAIN...

THROUGHOUT ALL  
THESE PERIODS, THE  
SETTING SUN WAS  
AS BEAUTIFUL THEN  
AS IT IS HERE  
NOW...



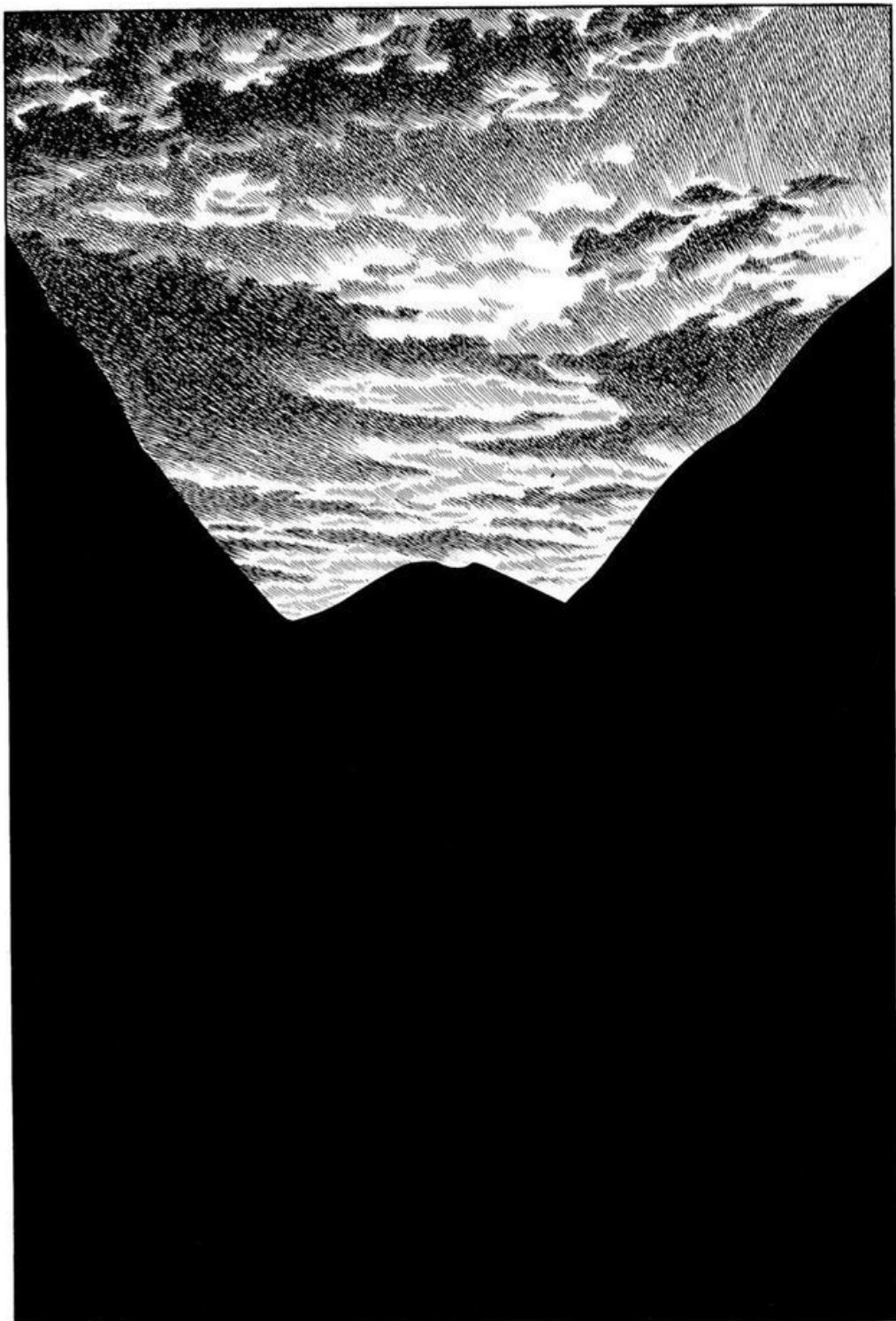
ALL OF YOU  
MUST LIVE  
LIKE THAT  
SUN...

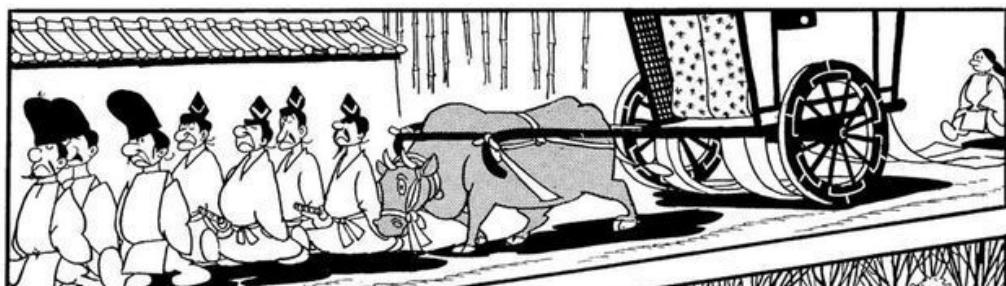
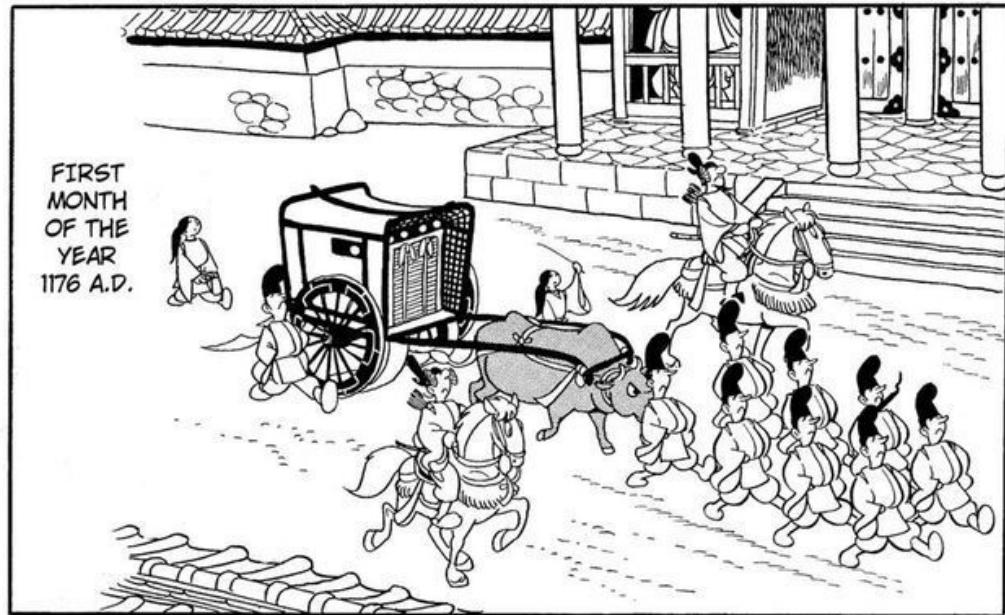
THE EBB  
AND FLOW  
OF HUMAN  
LIFE...

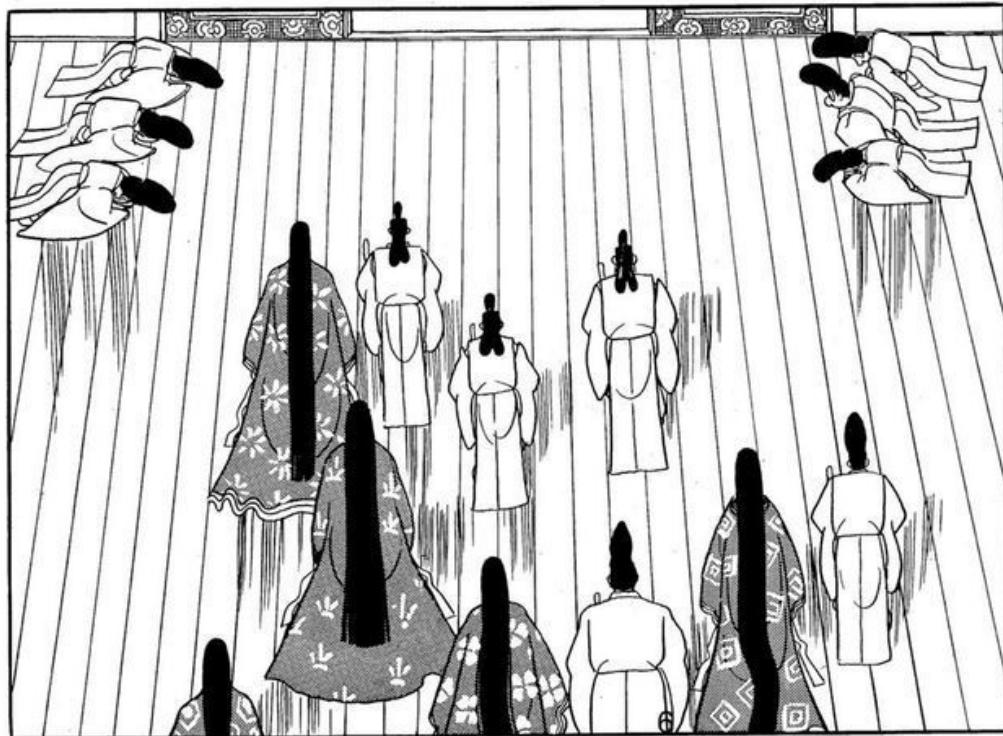
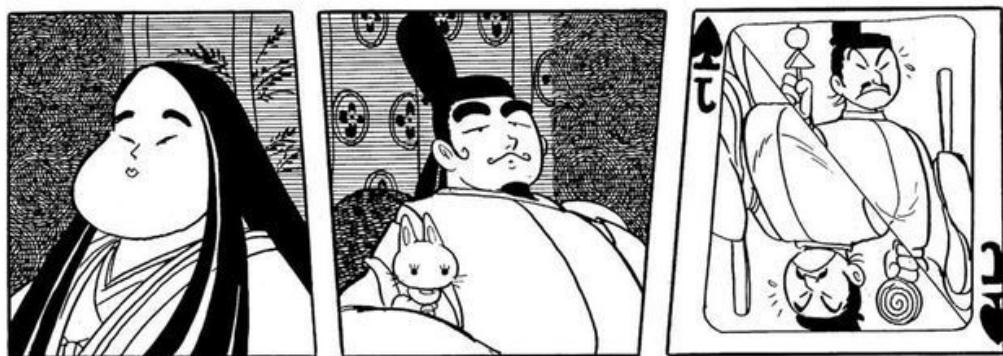


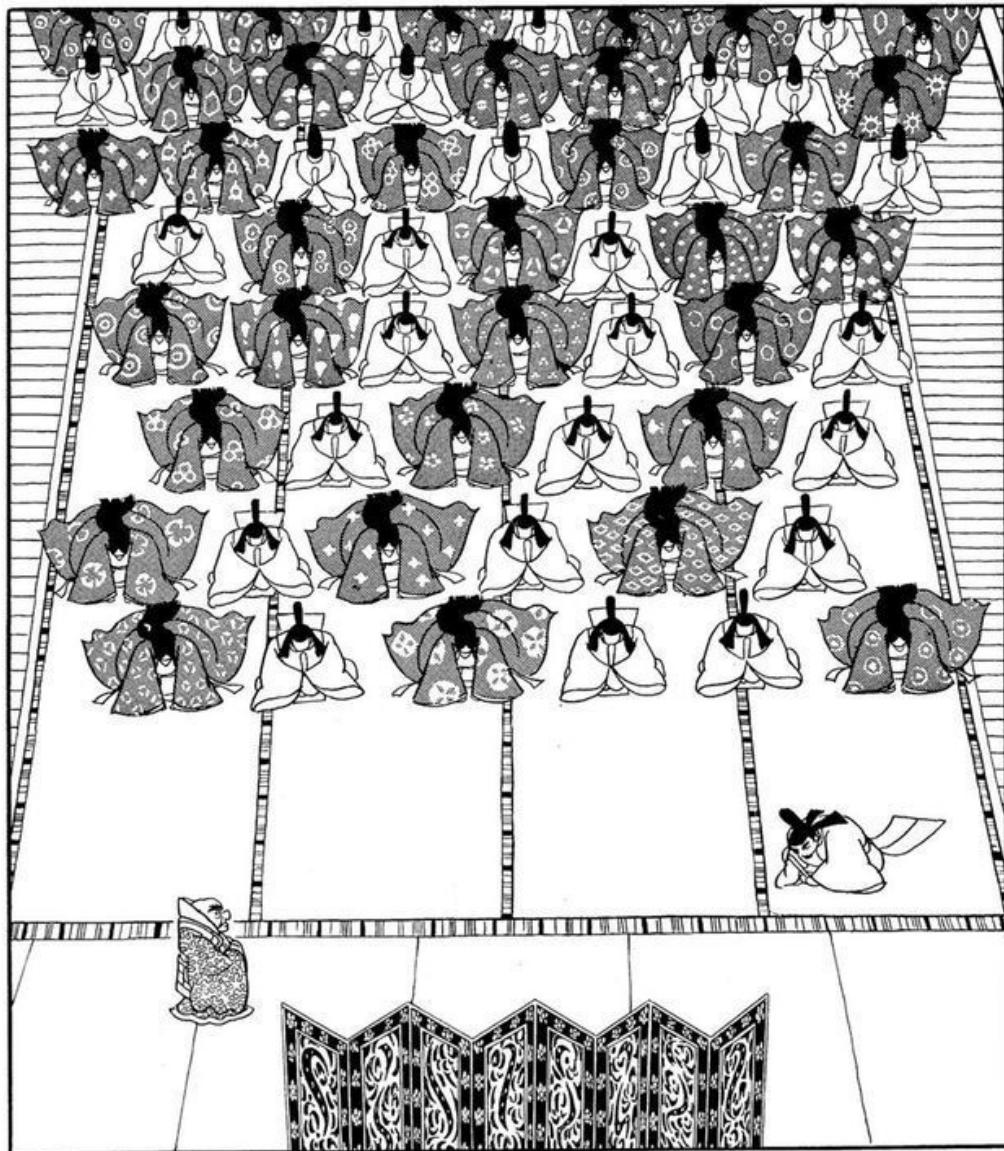
DOESN'T ALLOW  
MUCH TIME FOR  
SAVORING THE  
SPLENDOR OF  
NATURE...





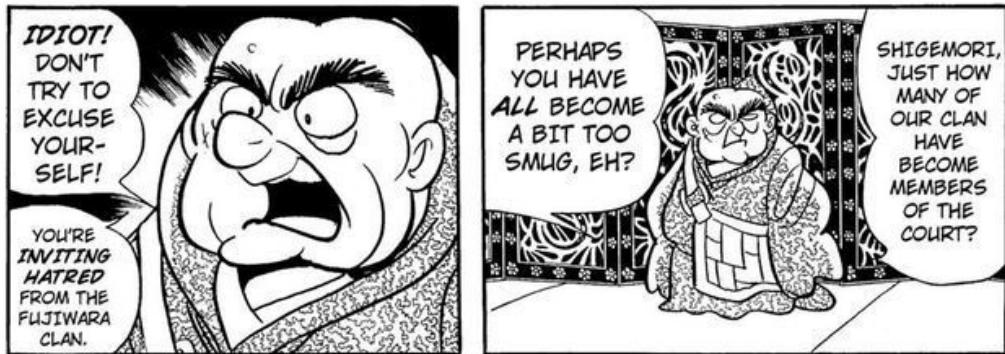
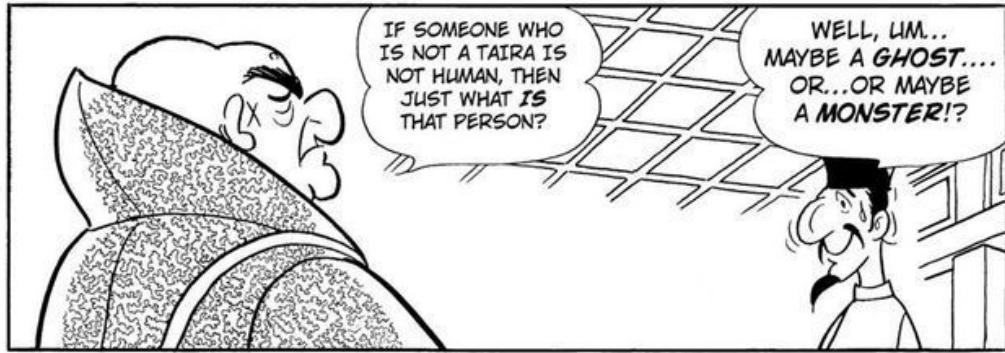


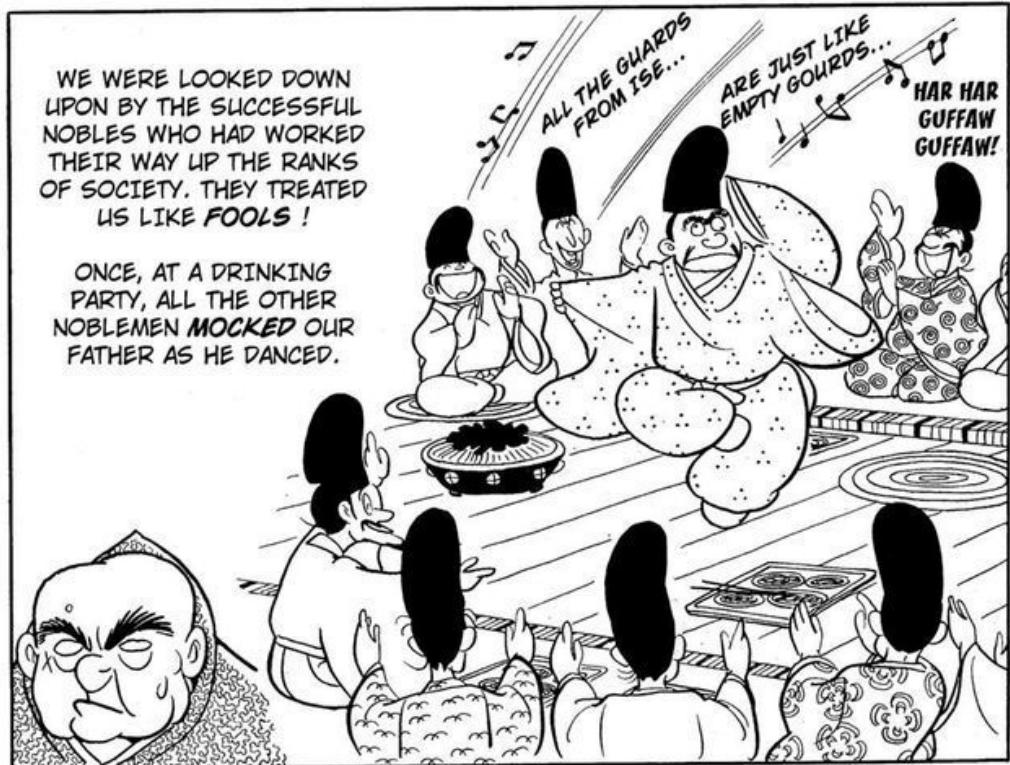






\*NOTE: TAIRA NO TOKITADA, KIYOMORI'S YOUNGER BROTHER.  
TAIRA NO SHIGEMORI, KIYOMORI'S ELDEST SON.  
TAIRA NO MUNEMORI, KIYOMORI'S SECOND SON.

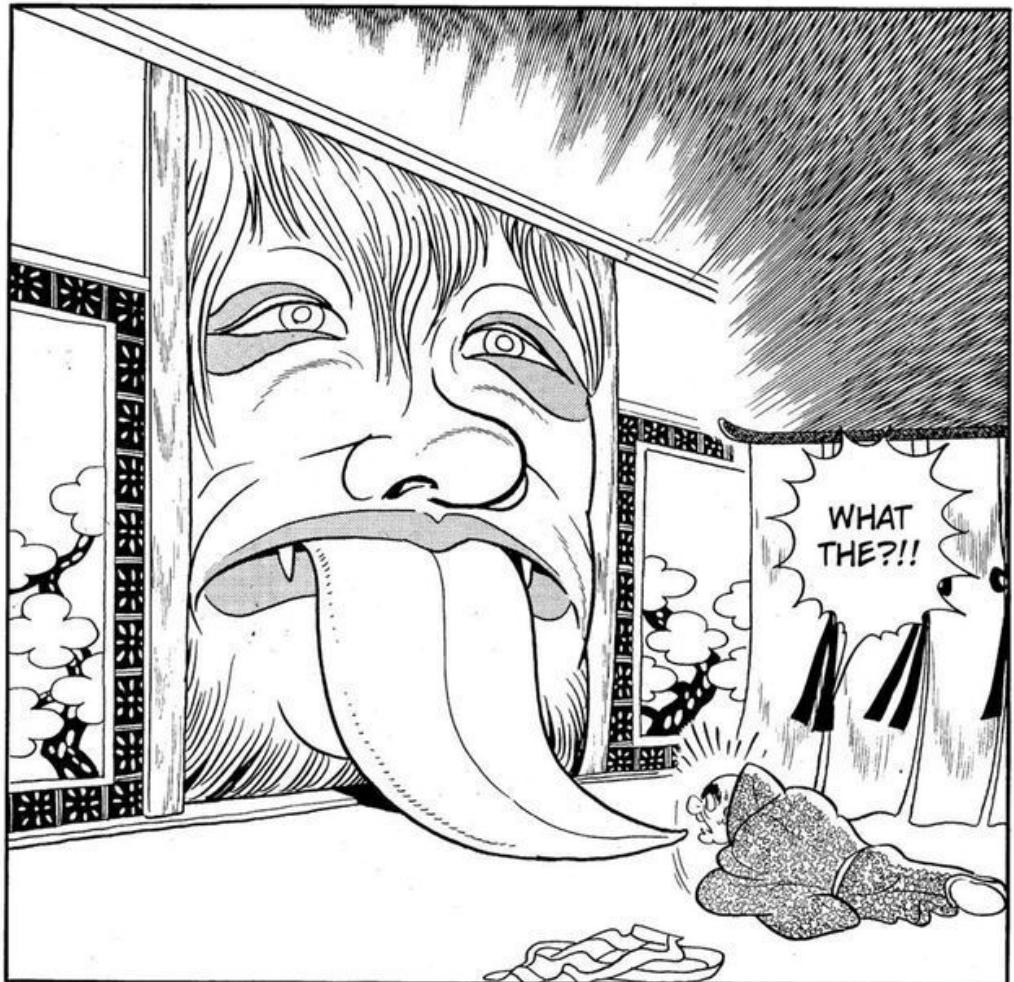


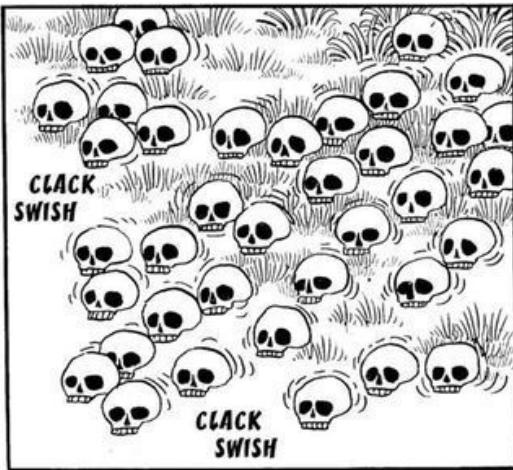
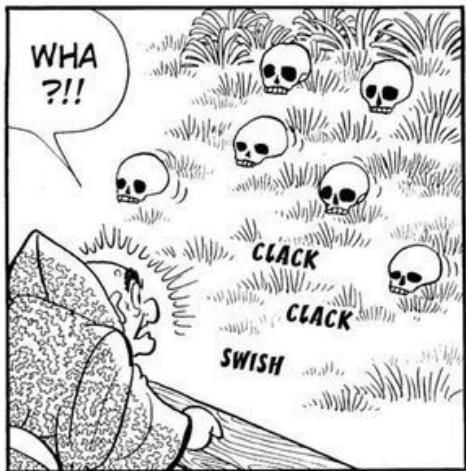




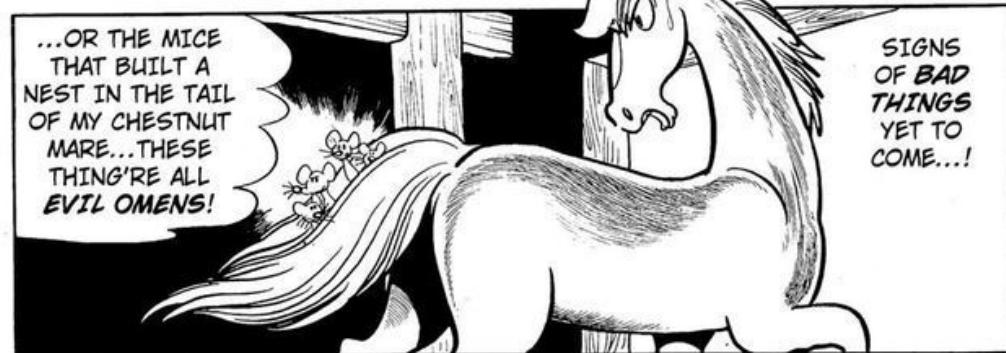












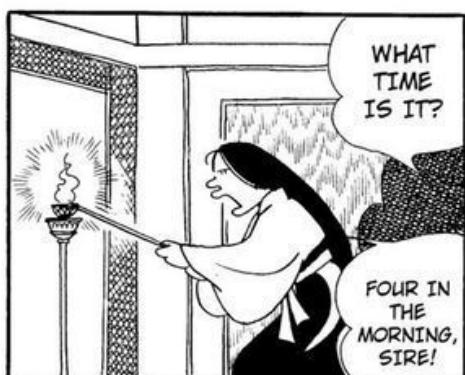


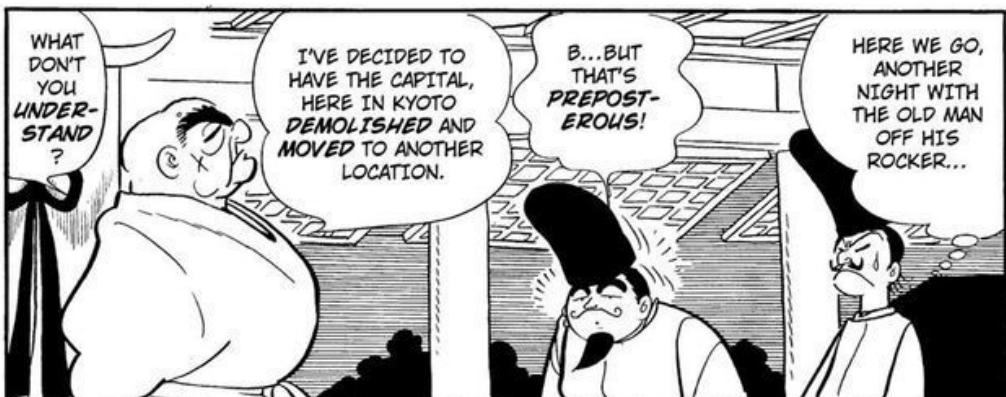


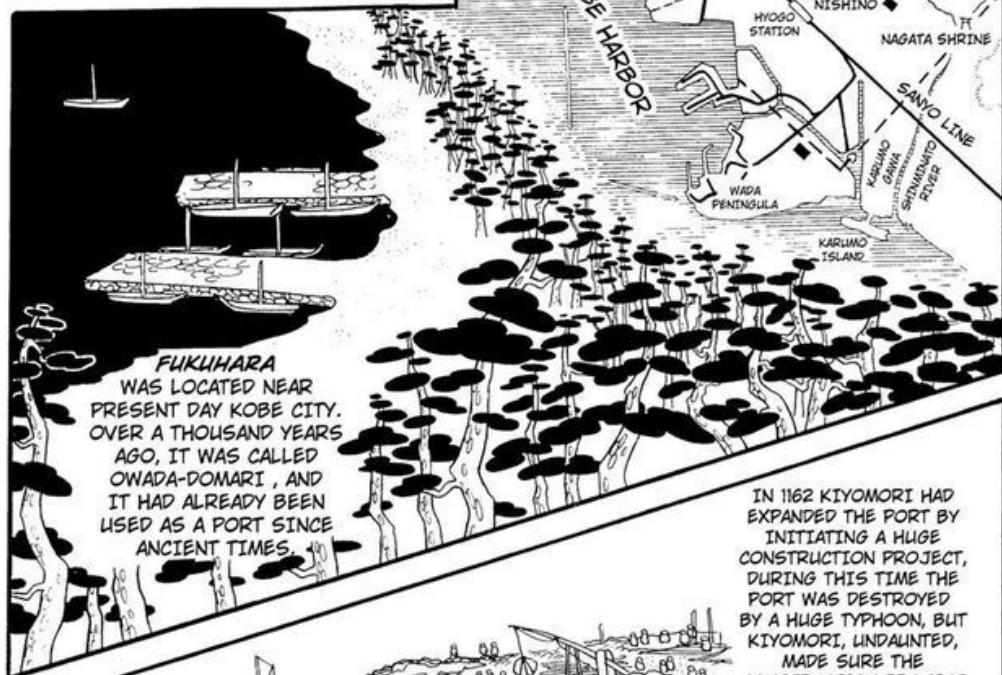
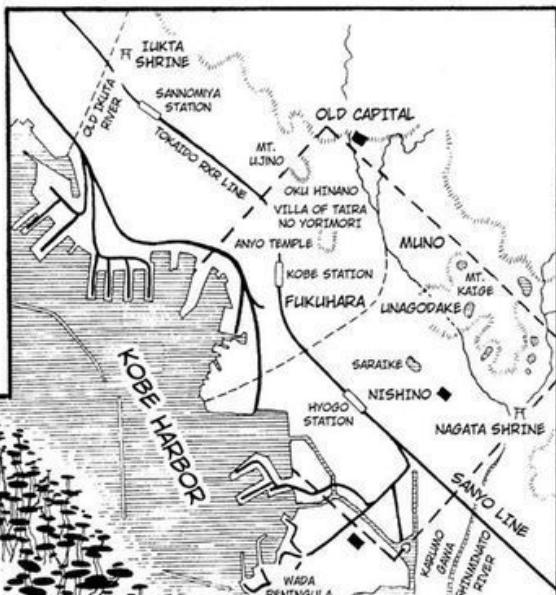
I MUST HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT, RIGHT? IT'S THE BIRD THAT LIVES IN SONG CHINA! DO YOU BELIEVE IN IT, TOO?



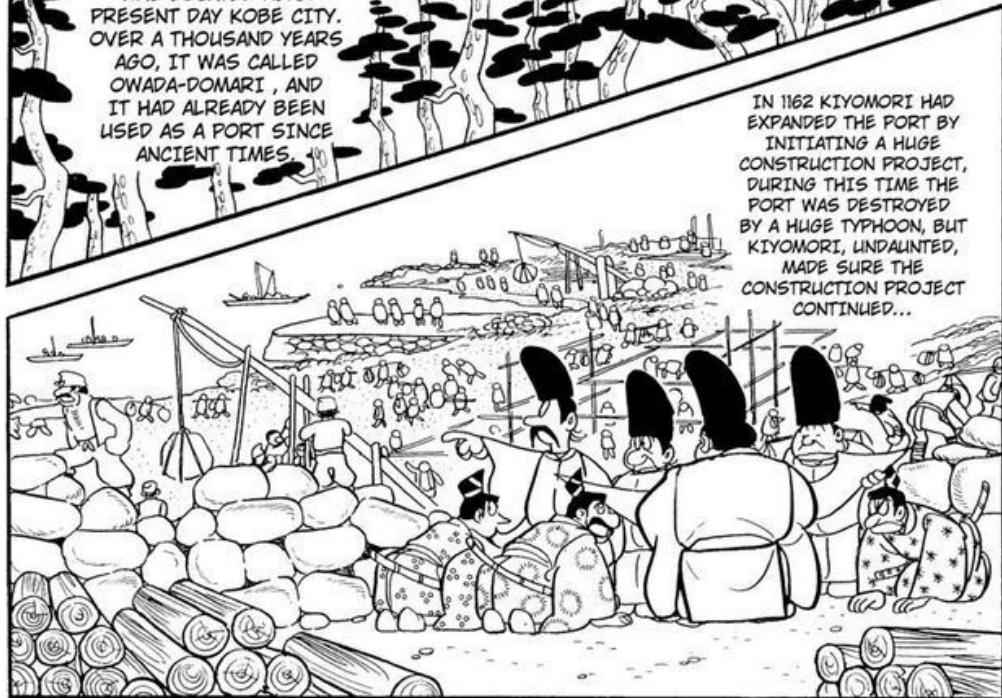
AGHHHH!





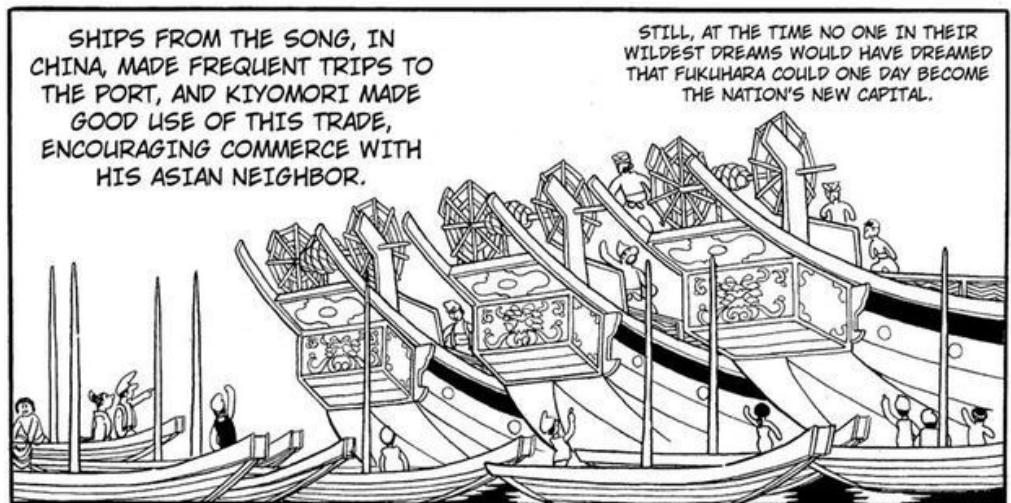


IN 1162 KIYOMORI HAD EXPANDED THE PORT BY INITIATING A HUGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, DURING THIS TIME THE PORT WAS DESTROYED BY A HUGE TYPHOON, BUT KIYOMORI, UNDAUNTED, MADE SURE THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT CONTINUED...



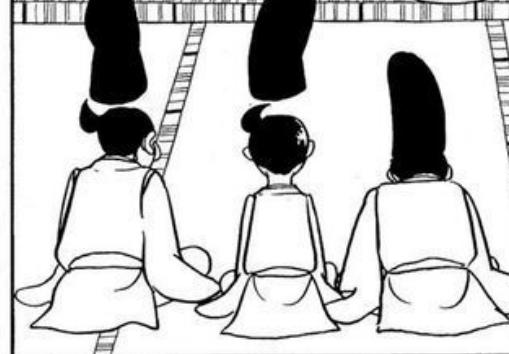


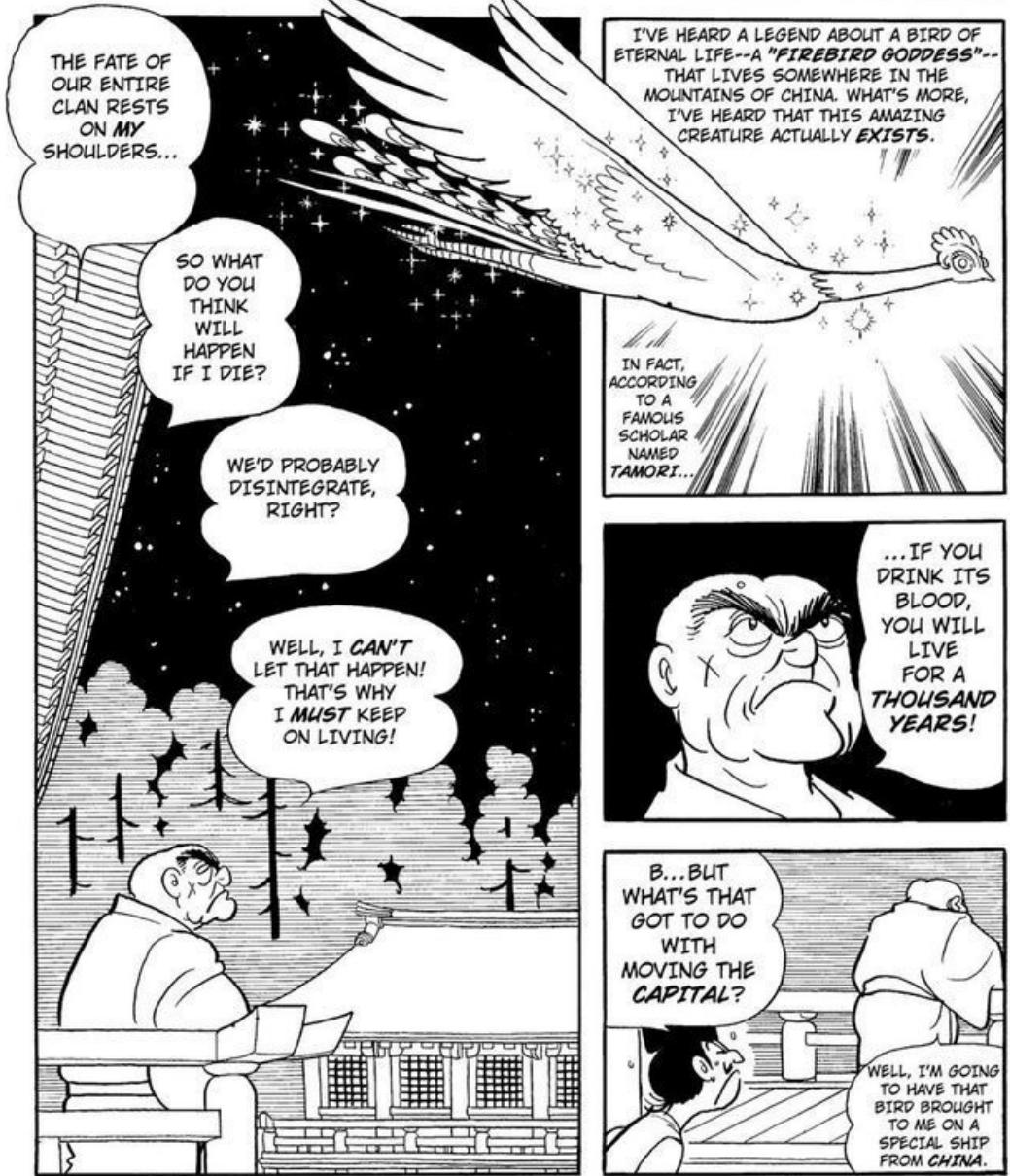
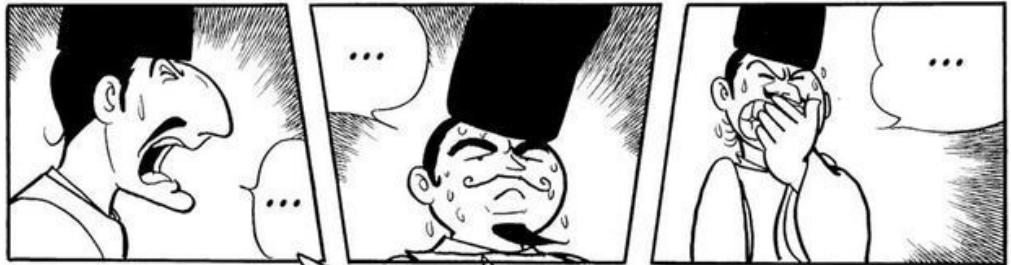
THE EXPANSION OF THE PORT WAS APPARENTLY CARRIED OUT AT A FANATICAL PACE. ACCORDING TO ONE LEGEND, WHEN THE CONSTRUCTION WAS ALMOST COMPLETED, KIYOMORI WAVED HIS FAN AT THE SETTING SUN, IMPLORING IT TO GIVE THE WORKERS MORE TIME TO WORK. THE SUN IS SAID TO HAVE RISEN THE EQUIVALENT OF ANOTHER THREE FINGERS OF HEIGHT, ALLOWING ENOUGH TIME FOR THE REMAINING WORK TO BE DONE.

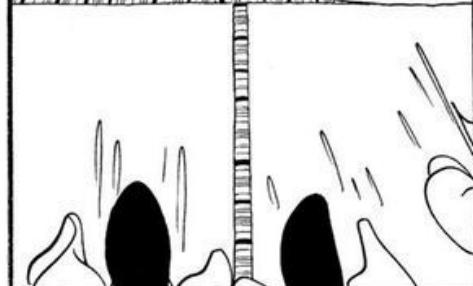
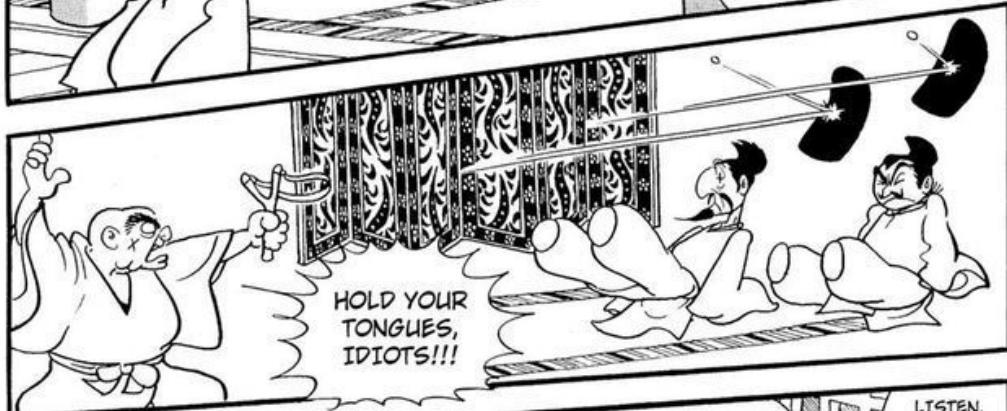
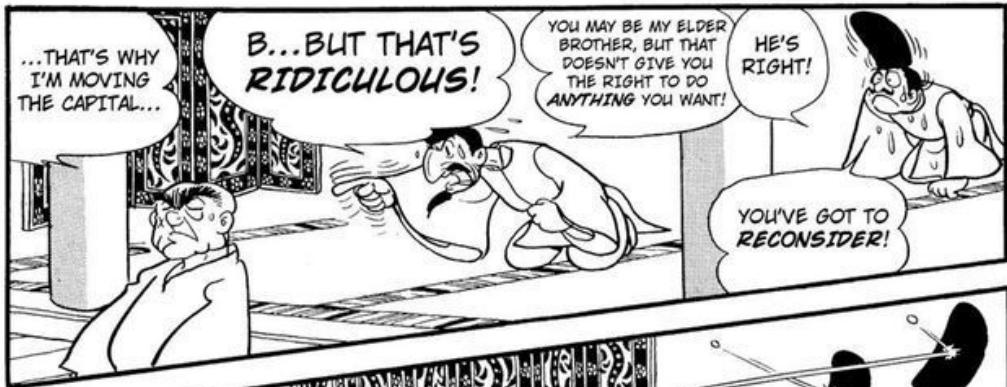


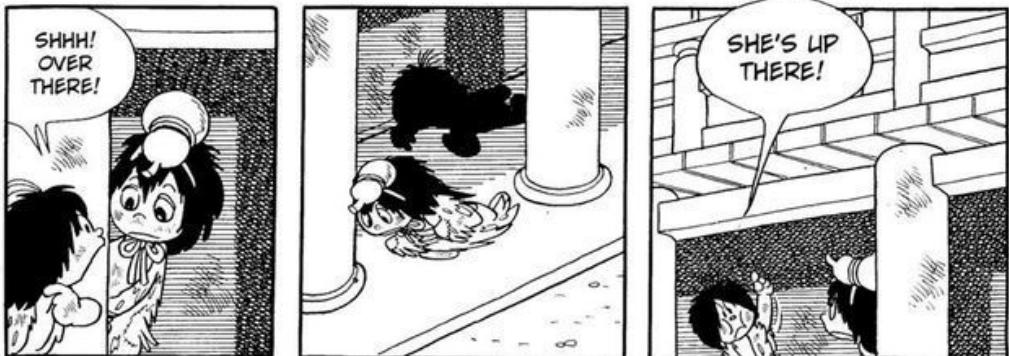
SHIPS FROM THE SONG, IN CHINA, MADE FREQUENT TRIPS TO THE PORT, AND KIYOMORI MADE GOOD USE OF THIS TRADE, ENCOURAGING COMMERCE WITH HIS ASIAN NEIGHBOR.

STILL, AT THE TIME NO ONE IN THEIR WILDEST DREAMS WOULD HAVE DREAMED THAT FUKUHARA COULD ONE DAY BECOME THE NATION'S NEW CAPITAL.









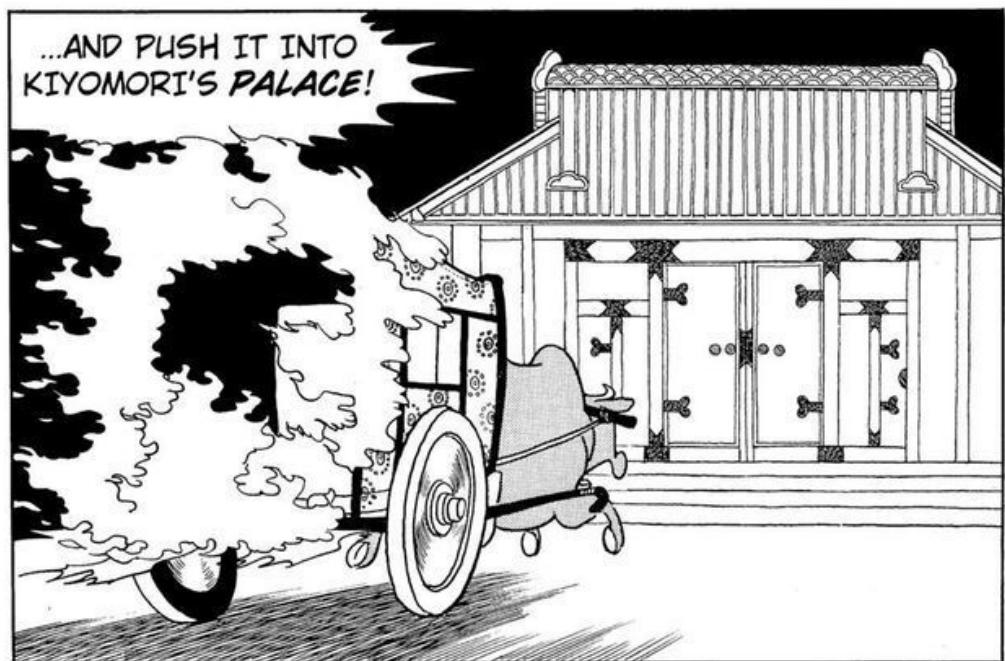


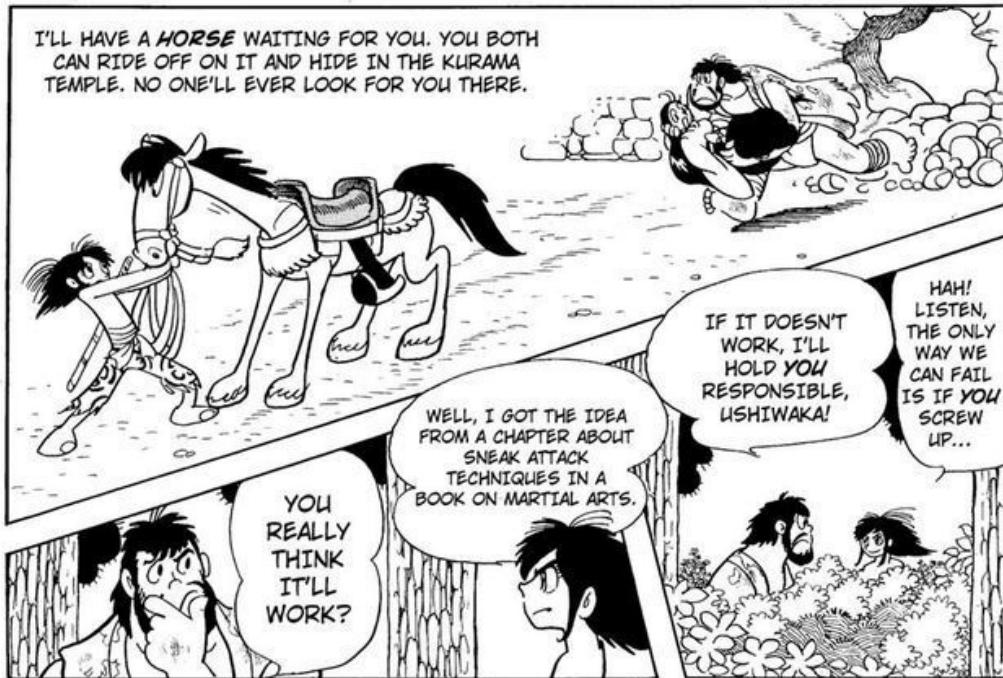
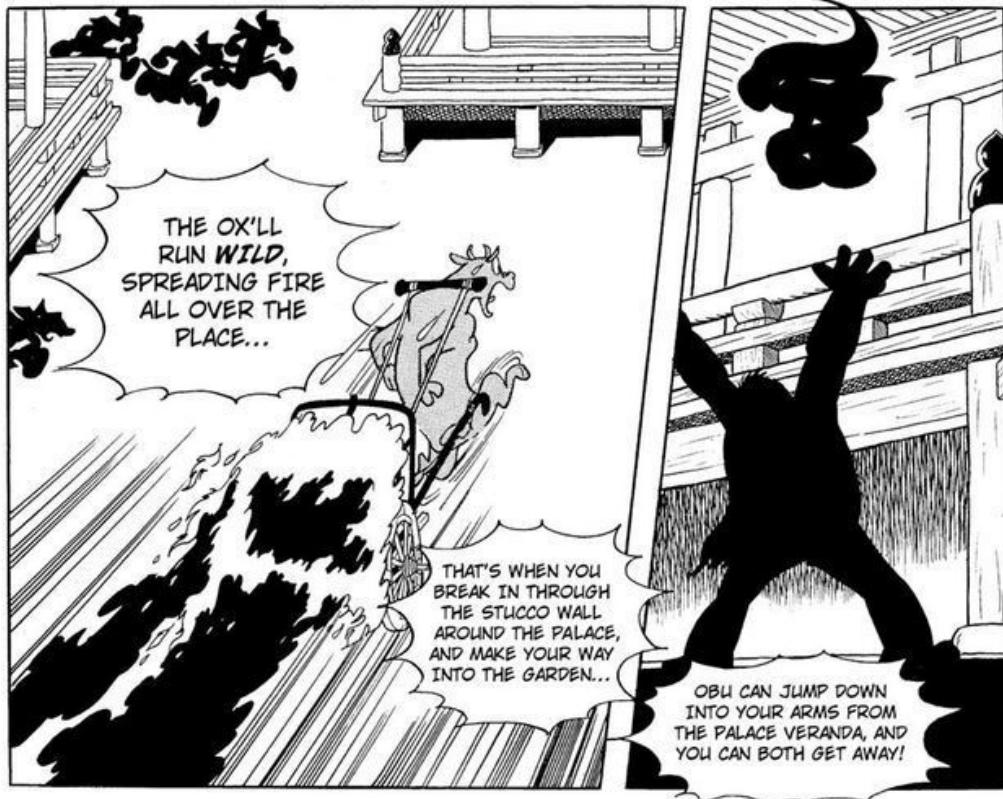












THE NIGHT  
OF A NEW  
MOON  
SOON  
CAME...

THIS  
GOOEY  
STUFF'S  
HARD TO  
PAINT  
ON...

HEY...  
WHAT ABOUT  
BELOW MY  
BELLY?

YOU CAN  
TAKE CARE  
OF THAT  
YOURSELF!

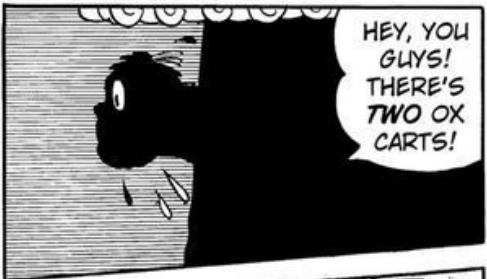
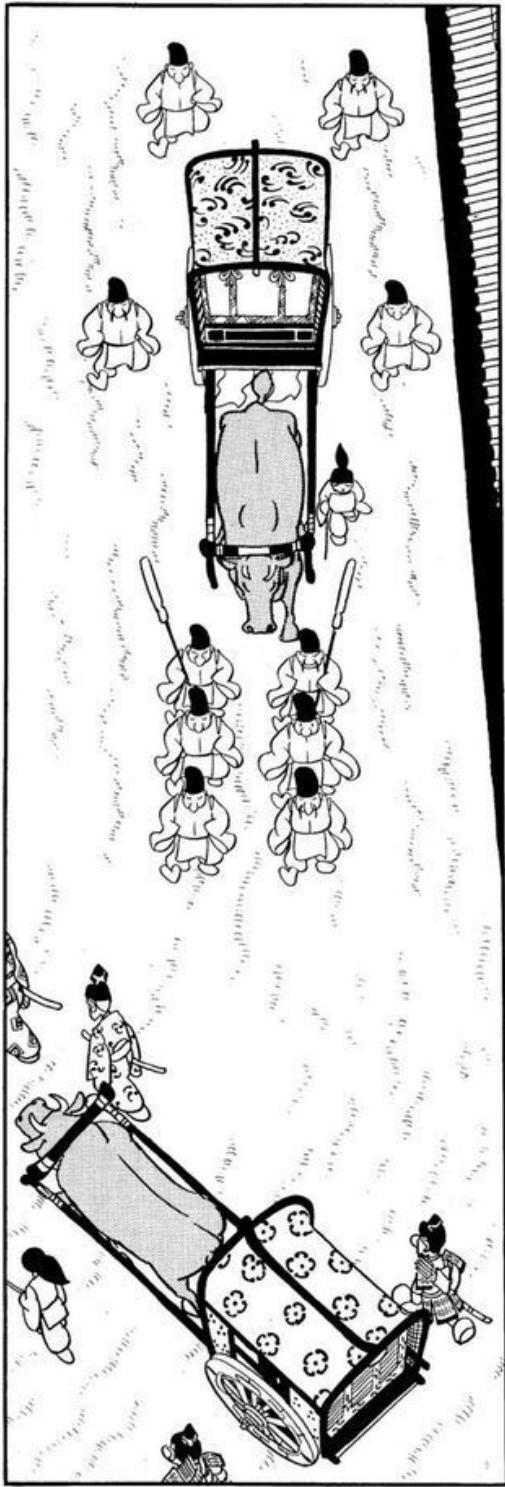
SNIFF

HEY!  
BE  
QUIET!

I CAN'T  
HELP IT!  
I THINK  
I'VE  
CAUGHT A  
COLD, MY  
NOSE'S  
DRIPPING!

AH CHOOOO!





OKAY, TIME  
TA STOP,  
OX CART!



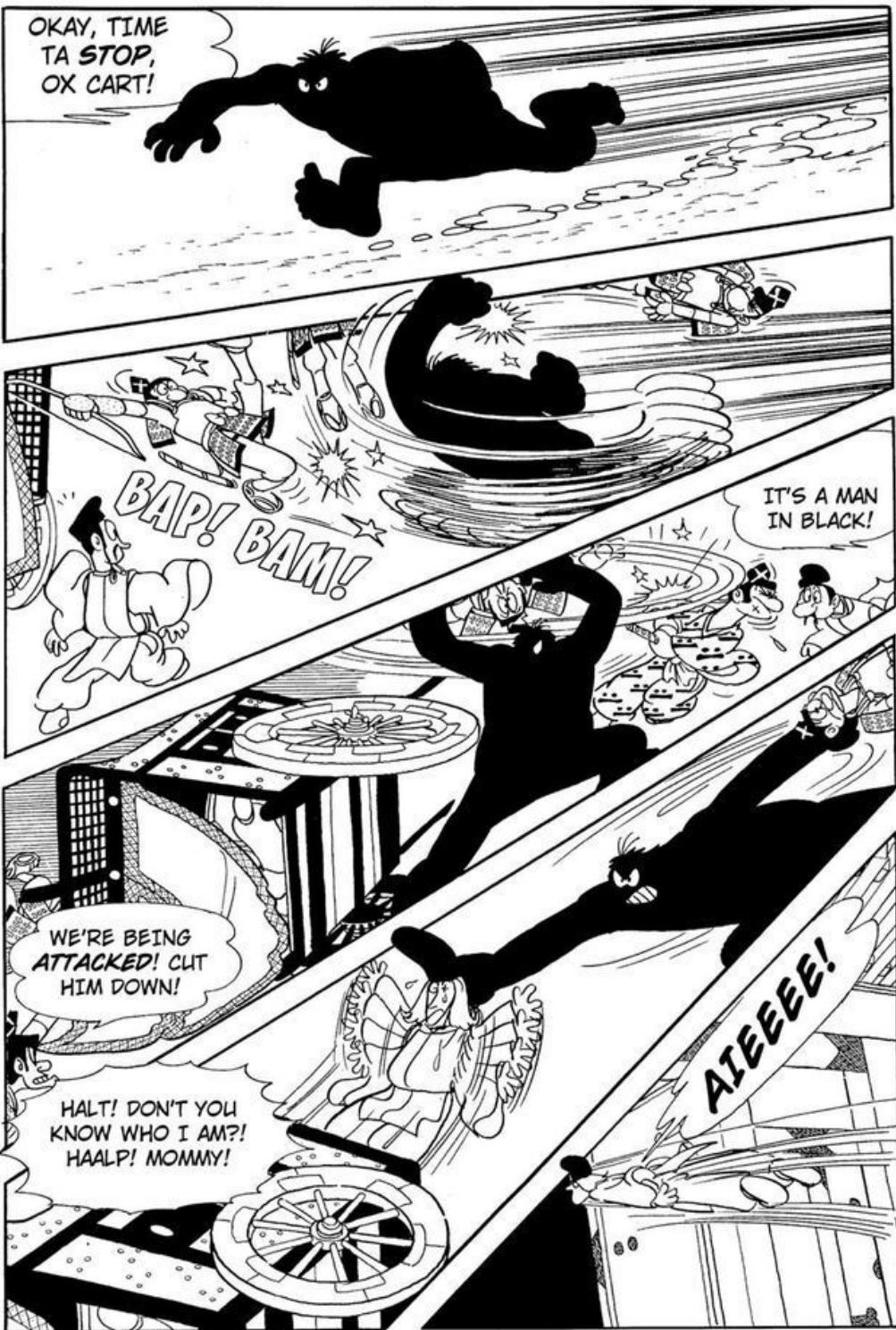
BAP! BAM!

IT'S A MAN  
IN BLACK!

WE'RE BEING  
ATTACKED! CUT  
HIM DOWN!

HALT! DON'T YOU  
KNOW WHO I AM?  
HAALP! MOMMY!

AIEEEE!



**BLOP!**

**OOMPH!**

UM, YOUR  
LORDSHIP...  
AT THE OINOGO  
GATE, UM,  
WHEN MASTER  
SUKEGORI WAS  
RETURNING  
FROM  
FALCONING...

...UM...A STRANGE  
BLACK FIGURE  
FROM REGENT  
FUJIWARA  
MOTOFUSA'S  
RETINUE WENT  
BERSERK AND  
ATTACKED THEM...  
MASTER SUKEGORI'S  
TAKEN REFUGE IN  
HIS QUARTERS...

WHAT!?  
ATTACKED  
MY  
NEPHEW?

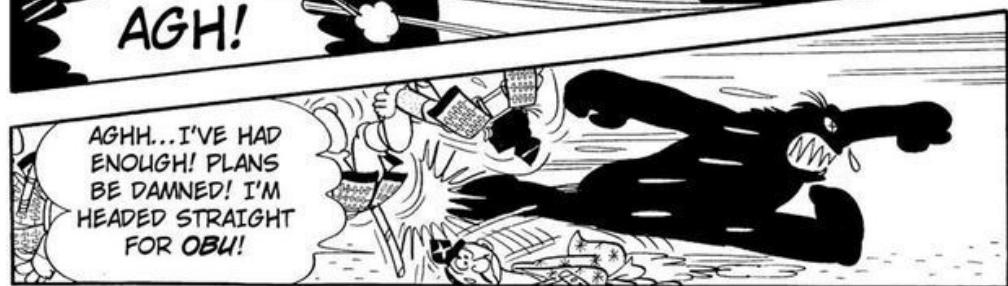
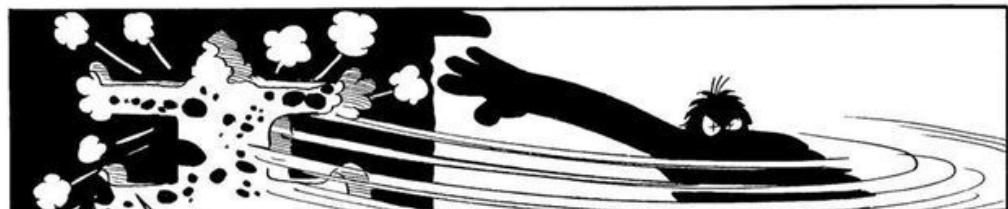
MY OWN  
NEPHEW?  
DISHONORED  
IN FRONT OF  
MY OWN  
HOME!!?

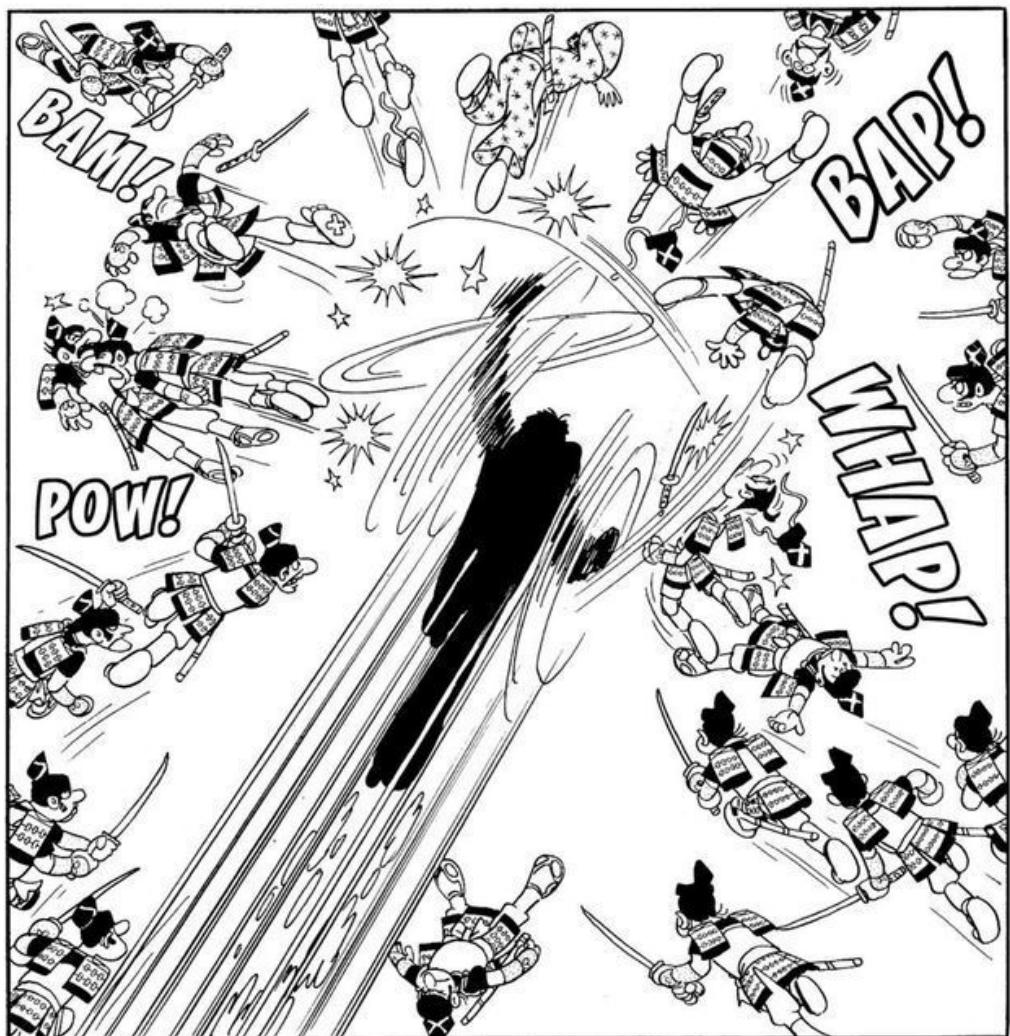
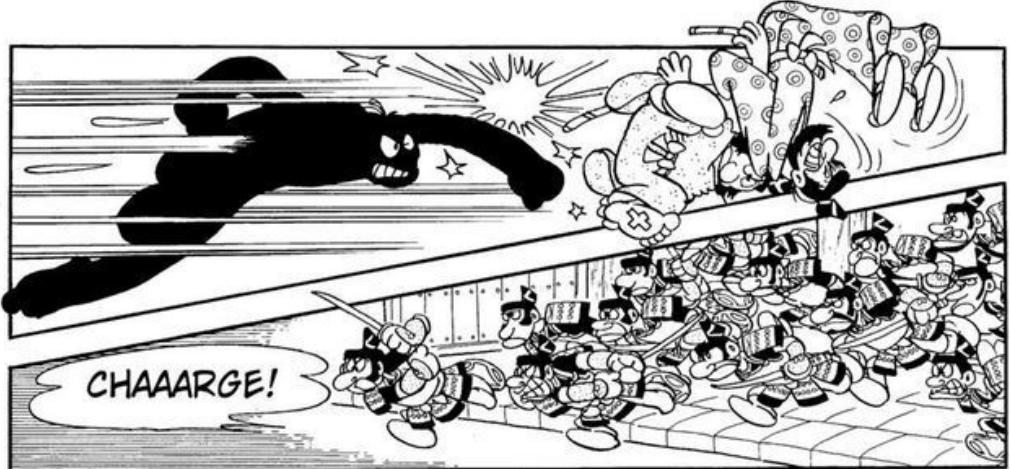
DON'T LET  
MOTOFUSA'S  
GOVERNMENT CART  
GET AWAY!!! AND  
MAKE SURE  
EVERYONE IN HIS  
RETINUE  
RECEIVES  
A GOOD  
BEATING!

ALL RIGHT,  
MEN! WE'RE  
GETTIN'  
REVENGE  
FOR MASTER  
SUKEGORI!

HEY! W...WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING?!  
THIS IS HIS  
EXCELLENCY  
MOTOFUSA'S  
OX CART!

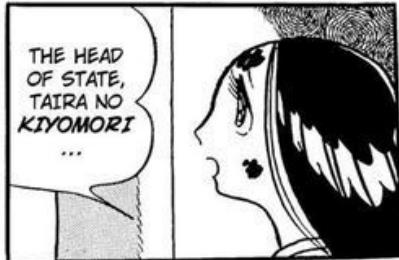
SHUT UP  
AND TAKE  
YOUR  
BEATING!

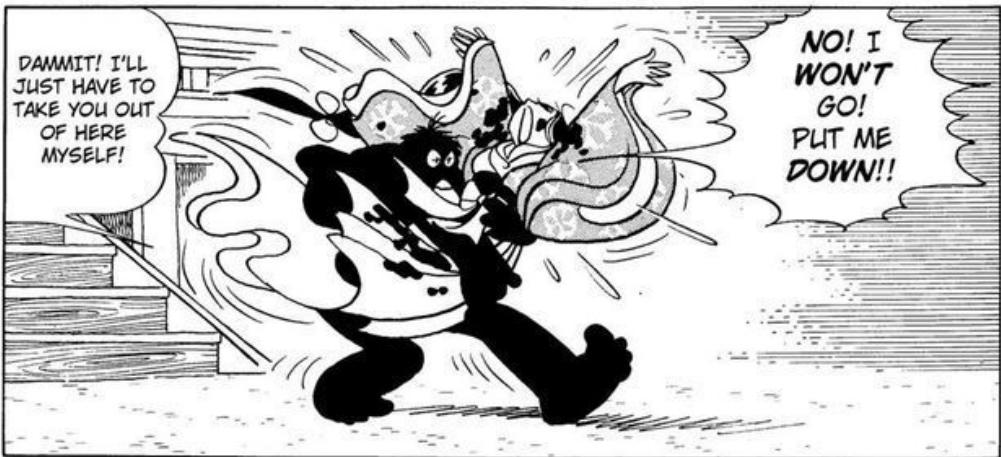






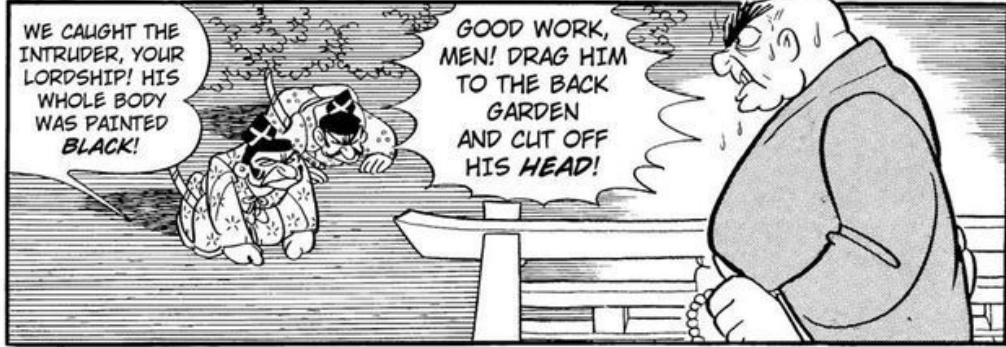






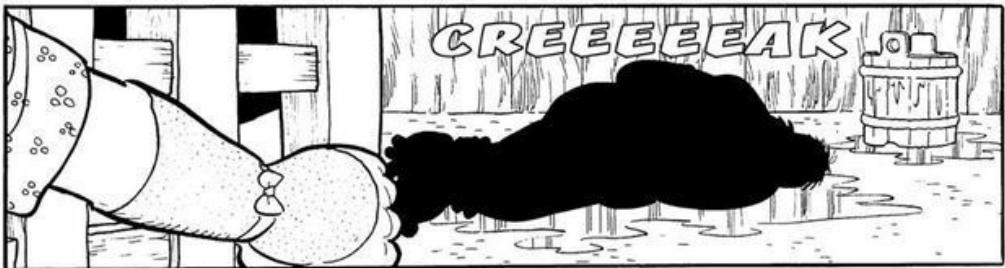


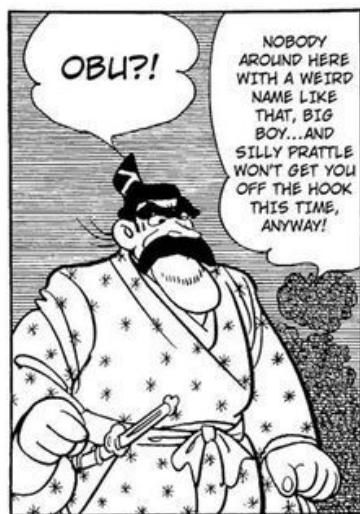
AGH...  
ARG...

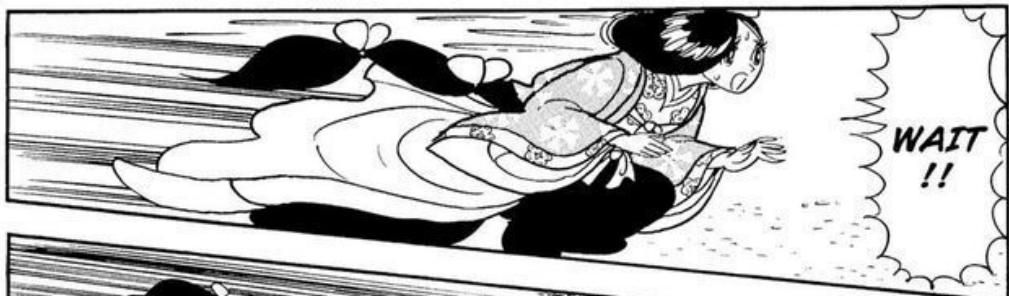


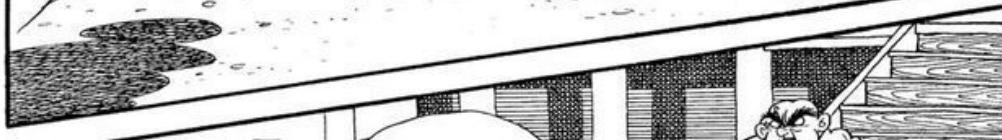
WE CAUGHT THE  
INTRUDER, YOUR  
LORDSHIP! HIS  
WHOLE BODY  
WAS PAINTED  
BLACK!

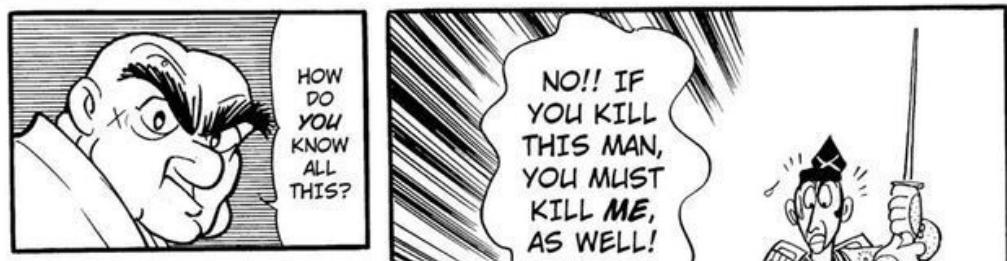
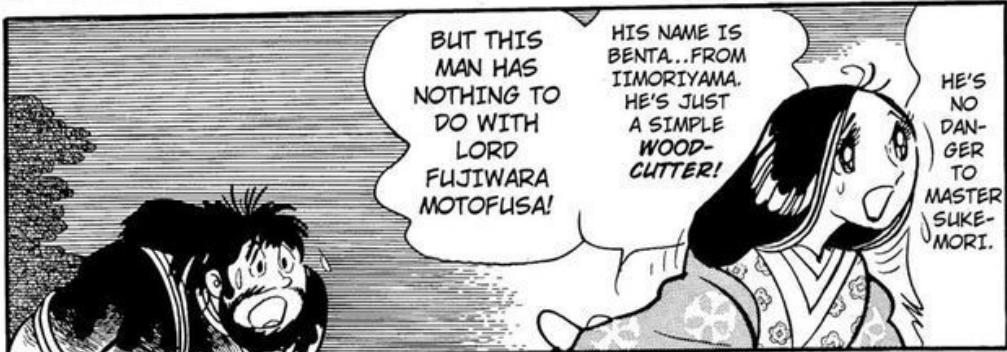
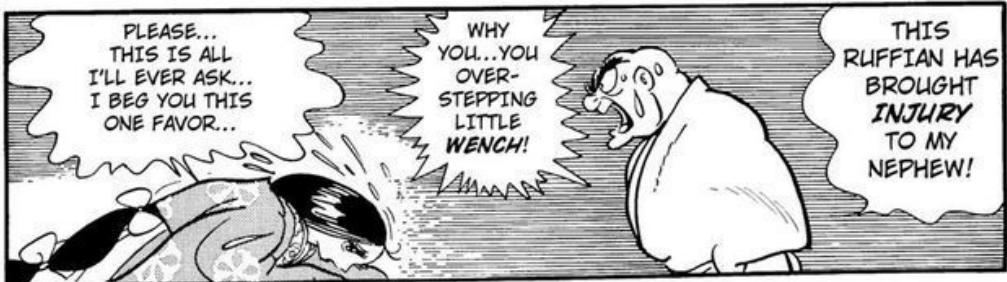
GOOD WORK,  
MEN! DRAG HIM  
TO THE BACK  
GARDEN  
AND CUT OFF  
HIS HEAD!



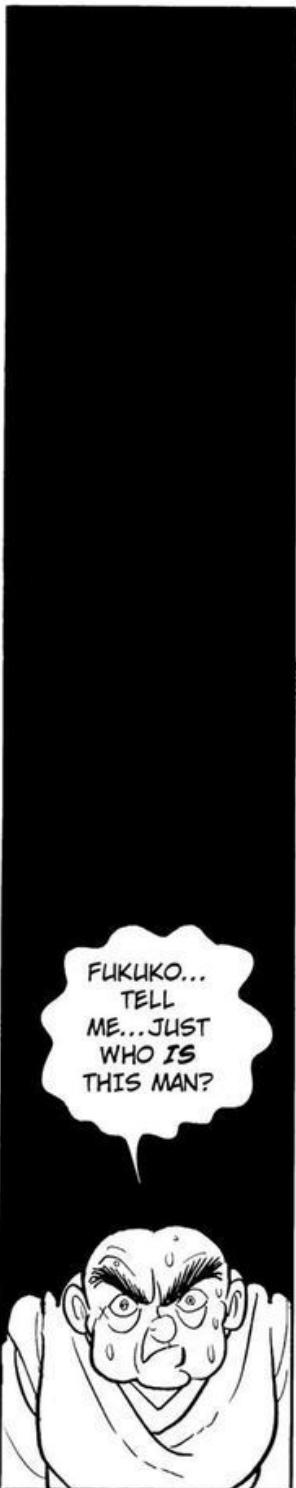


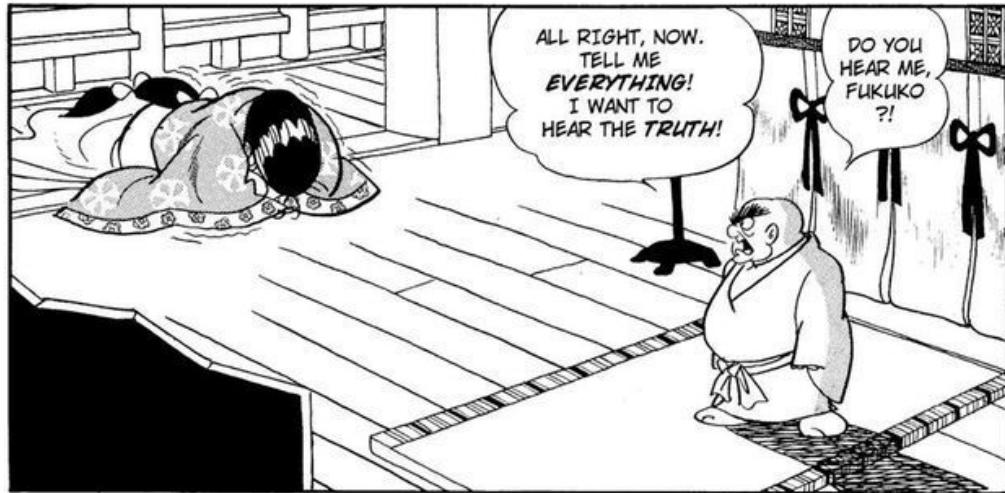


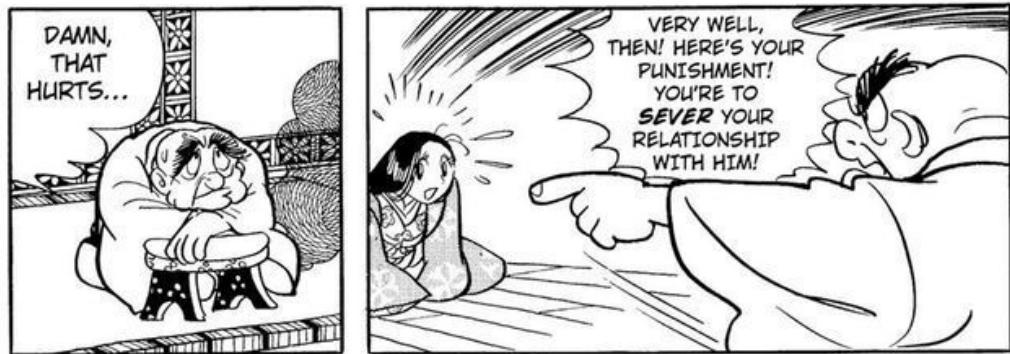
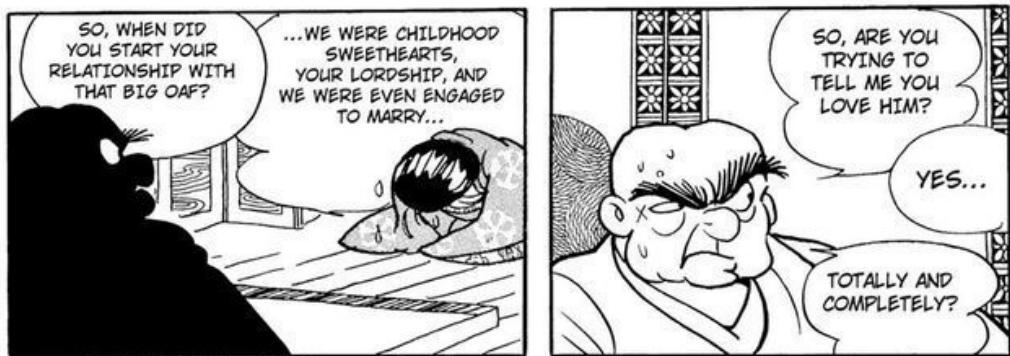
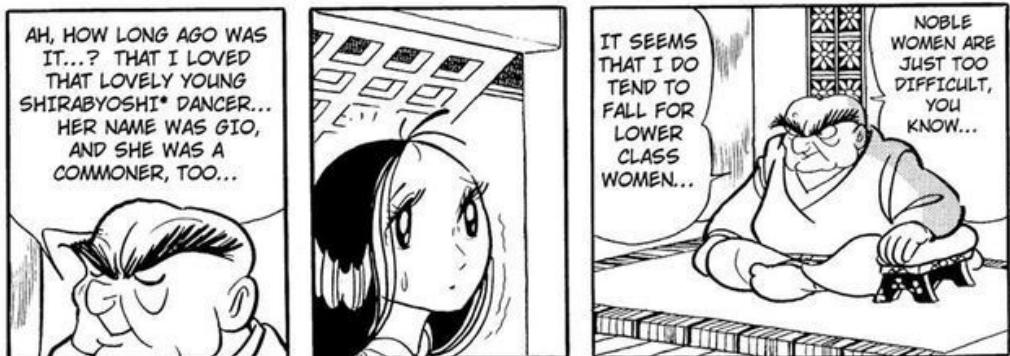












\*SHIRABYOSHI: A "PROFESSIONAL" FEMALE DANCER WHO NORMALLY DRESSED IN WHITE, HENCE THE NAME SHIRA (WHITE) BYOSHI (DANCER).

WHAT!?

YOU DO WANT  
ME TO SPARE  
HIS LIFE,  
DON'T YOU?

WELL, THE  
PRICE IS YOU  
CUTTING HIM  
OUT OF YOUR  
LIFE!

SWEAR  
THAT YOU'LL  
NEVER SEE  
HIM AGAIN!  
THAT YOU'LL  
GIVE HIM UP  
FOREVER!

I WANT YOU  
TO BE MINE,  
FUKUKO, ALL  
MINE...

I DON'T WANT  
TO SHARE  
YOU WITH  
ANYONE ELSE.

YOU'RE TO  
BE MINE  
AND MINE  
ONLY,  
UNDER-  
STAND?

I DON'T  
HAVE LONG  
TO LIVE...  
SO UNTIL  
I DIE...  
I WANT  
YOU BY MY  
SIDE...

UNDERSTAND?  
I FEEL BETTER,  
JUST HAVING  
YOU NEAR ME...

